

PLO sees statehood coming in small doses

By Dominic Evans
Reuters

CAIRO — When Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat finally enters the Palestinian self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho he will not do so as head of state. But in practice Israel has already ceded to his people many trappings of embryonic statehood. The Palestinians will have their own passports, postage stamps and a separate international telephone code. There will be a Palestinian police force, airline, radio and television.

"It is a start, not a complete start, and it does not fulfil all our hopes, but it is a beginning in the right direction," PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath said Friday.

Statehood has been the aim of the Palestinian movement for decades, firstly in the whole of historic Palestine, then on any corner of "liberated land," then in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and now in the two self-rule areas.

The two areas may amount to a tiny fraction of Palestine before the creation of Israel but the Palestinian movement has come a long way since it declared, in 1988, a wholly hypothetical independent state alongside Israel.

It made the declaration in Algiers, a most 3,000 kilometres from Jerusalem. Many states recognised it but Israel, the country that mattered most, turned a deaf ear. Now, step by step over the years of negotiations since the Madrid conference in 1991, the Palestinians have chipped away at Israel's long resistance to the statehood concept.

"We are a people under occupation who are getting our independence in very small doses," Dr. Shaath said.

On Thursday Israel and the PLO agreed to set May 4 as a target date for signing a final agreement on the details of self-rule for Gaza and the West Bank region of Jericho.

Israeli troop withdrawals and deployment of Palestinian police should start within 24 hours of the signing.

Despite Israeli insistence throughout the months of tough negotiations that autonomy does not mean sovereignty, Palestinians think the de-

tails lay the groundwork for a Palestinian state just around the corner.

Dr. Shaath said the autonomy plans for Gaza and Jericho would bear fruit immediately through visible signs that the Palestinians were in charge of their own affairs.

"People will start seeing Palestinian ports, airports, television stations, economic institutions. They will see a real opportunity to develop their own future," he said.

But, aware of the right-wing pressure on his Israeli negotiating partners, he was careful not to go too far.

"We are not going to use the passport indirectly to claim that we have sovereignty and that we have a full independent state, because we don't," he said.

"It (the passport) will be clearly marked so as not to give the impression that it is the passport of a fully independent state because we are not — yet," he added.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, also anxious to fend off the same right-wing criticism, said of the concessions: "I admit that we were a little bit generous."

"Why not? This still does not constitute a decision either on a Palestinian state or on the permanent arrangement," he told Israeli army radio.

Supporters of Mr. Arafat are gambling that these signs of statehood will win over the Palestinian opposition, which argues that Gaza and Jericho is not enough.

Dr. Shaath said he was encouraged by statements on Wednesday from the founder of the Muslim fundamentalist group Hamas, which is opposed to the autonomy plans.

Sheikh Ahmad Yassin indicated his organisation was moving away from its headline rejection of Israel and might stop its suicide bombings of Israeli targets.

This would make coexistence with the PLO easier once Palestinians take control in Gaza and Jericho.

Dr. Shaath also said Israel had withdrawn a number of demands this week which the PLO had felt would have infringed on the scope of Palestinian jurisdiction in the two self-rule areas.

Rejoicing over return of deportees to Gaza

Palestinians sing and dance during a rally for Palestinian deportees — mostly members of the Fatah movement — who returned to the occupied Gaza Strip on Friday. The men in karate uniforms are members of Hamas, taking part in a rare joint festivity with Fatah. As thoroughbred Arab horses pranced on the beach of this Mediterranean city, Fatah boy scouts marched with the Hamas team, who later put on a display of karate exercises, such as splitting bricks with their bare hands. The celebrations stressed the growing rapprochement between the two former rivals. More than 2,000 people watched the show (AFP photo).



Experts say Gulf illness real but cannot be defined

WASHINGTON (AP) — A mysterious illness suffered by many U.S. soldiers of the 1992 Gulf war is real and serious, a panel of experts concluded Friday, but they said it is impossible to define the disorder or pinpoint its cause.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) committee said the group of disorders loosely referred to as the "Gulf war syndrome" involves a variety of symptoms that may have been caused by any or all of a combination of stress, chemical exposures or parasites.

"There is no single disease or syndrome apparent, but rather multiple illnesses with overlapping symptoms and causes," said a committee report released at a news conference. The group called for "rigorous" medical research to define the illness and to establish a treatment plan.

"This is a very real condition," said Dr. Herbert H. Schaubert, an Albert Einstein College of Medicine professor and a member of the committee. "These people are suffering. There has not been an adequate response to their needs."

The NIH committee was charged with evaluating evidence of whether U.S. soldiers are suffering from a general disorder caused by their service in the Gulf war, of the characteristics of the condition and what might have caused it.

No clear answers were reached to any of these questions, said Dr. Gareth M. Green, chairman of the committee and a professor at the Harvard School of Public Health.

What did develop, he said, is "a feeling that there has been and continues to be suffering and a loss of quality of life by veterans of the Gulf war."

The panel said it is clear that at least 20,000 American troops, and maybe more, are suffering from some or all of these symptoms: Chronic fatigue, skin rashes, inability to concentrate, muscle and joint pain, loss of memory, shortness of breath and headache.

Carol Stauffer came home from the war with some of the same symptoms reported by many other soldiers.

She had chronic fatigue, headaches and a general feeling of having a permanent case of the flu.

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Accord holds out promises of changes for Palestinians

By James Martone
The Associated Press

CAIRO — A day after the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy accord is signed Wednesday, the Palestinians of the divided Gaza Strip will be greeted with songs and cheers from Israeli police and seeing their own police patrolling the streets.

PLO chief negotiator Nabil Shaath described the scene Friday as he laid out details of how Palestinians' lives will change once self-rule takes effect in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho under the accord.

Dr. Shaath described it as "a new dawn for our people." But he also was cautious as he talked to reporters Thursday and Friday, several times stressing that the Palestinians were not yet assured of getting their dream of an independent country.

"It's not the realisation of all hopes," he said. "But it is the beginning on the correct road."

In Israel, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres called the agreement "a courageous and correct and fair step" towards ending the decades-long conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

He said the agreement would not create a Palestinian state — which Israel opposes — but set aside three years for negotiating a solution to the conflict and the future of other areas of the West Bank not covered in the Gaza-Jericho accord.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak announced the Wednesday signing date after meetings Thursday among Mr. Peres, PLO chief Yasser Arafat and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Mr. Mubarak said only a few details have yet to be worked out, and Dr. Shaath said the negotiators would use the time from Sunday through Tuesday to wrap up the final wording.

The signing will come almost eight months after the two sides reached an initial agreement calling for Israel to withdraw from Gaza and the West Bank to make way for limited Palestinian autonomy.

Dr. Shaath said the Gaza-Jericho accord will mean Palestinians can have their own airline and the right to fish freely in the Mediterranean Sea of Gaza where Israel used to block fishermen from working.

They will also have postage stamps, an area code separate from Israel and travel documents marked with the word "Passport." However, the documents also will say "laissez passer," a French term for travel papers for those without passports.

Dr. Shaath said the most noticeable change will be the departure of Israeli troops — except in and around Jewish settlements — and their replacement by 9,000 Palestinian police. Some 6,000 will arrive in the first two weeks.

An international force will arrive to oversee the handover of power from Israel to the Palestinians, Dr. Shaath said. Its numbers and exact role will be worked out.

But Dr. Shaath described the major change as psychological when the people see a Palestinian authority is running their day-to-day lives.

"People will start seeing Palestinian ports, airports, a television station, economic institutions, their own telephones," Dr. Shaath said.

He described it as the Palestinians having "a real opportunity to develop their future. We will have full power of legislation, basic laws, all regulation in every walk of life."

Still, for all his obvious enthusiasm, Dr. Shaath pointed out the agreement will not be "real" until it is actually signed.

Among details still to be negotiated is release of all the more than 8,000 Palestinians jailed by Israel. The agreement calls for freeing 5,000 within two weeks, and Dr. Shaath said an agreement of "general principle" covers most others.

As he explained it, this calls for detainees belonging to groups opposed to the peace talks to be freed if they sign a pledge supporting the PLO in its moves towards peace.

This will include the radical Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, which the PLO is working to bring into the peace process to avoid conflicts among Palestinians.

The release of other prisoners — ones whom Israel opposes freeing because they committed violent crimes — is still being negotiated, Dr. Shaath said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arafat praises Clinton's peace efforts

TUNIS (AFP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat on Friday praised U.S. President Bill Clinton's "positive and intense" efforts to bring about a Middle East peace settlement, a news report said. Mr. Arafat's comment came in a telephone conversation with Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The PLO leader and Mr. Christopher, who was speaking from Tel Aviv, discussed the latest moves to launch Palestinian self-rule in line with the declaration of principles signed in September, the official Palestinian news agency Wafa reported. Mr. Arafat thanked Mr. Christopher for "U.S. President Bill Clinton's positive and intense efforts... to bring about just and comprehensive peace" in the Middle East. Mr. Christopher, on a Middle East tour, is due to attend the signing of the Israel-PLO accord to launch self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. Mr. Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin are to sign the long-delayed accord in Cairo next Wednesday. The PLO leader returned to Tunis Friday from Cairo, where he held talks with Mr. Christopher, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Somali must rejoin Somalia — ex-president

ADDIS ABABA (AFP) — Separatist Somalia's former president called here Friday for the country to rejoin its southern neighbour Somalia, from which it seceded unilaterally in May 1991. Abdul Rahman Ahmed Ali, the first head of state after secession, told journalists in the Ethiopian capital: "It is time our people understood clearly that the international community does not intend to recognise Somaliland." He added that Somalia in the north and south "should sit down together to sort out their problems." Mr. Ahmed Ali, who was joined at a press conference by warlord General Mohamed Farah Aided, heads the Somali National Movement (SNM), instrumental in overthrowing Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre in January 1991. Mr. Ahmed Ali said a stable political future for the factionally-riven Horn of Africa country following the withdrawal last month of the U.S. contingent and other Western troops from the United Nations peacekeeping force in Somalia. Mr. Ahmed Ali said the SNM, which is reportedly riven by internal strife, would attend a meeting of the main Somali factions scheduled for May 19 in Nairobi. The U.N.-brokered meeting has been called to pave the way for a national reconciliation conference.

Former Syrian diplomat to be tried

BERLIN (AFP) — The prosecutor's office here formally charged Friday a former Syrian diplomat alleging that he was involved in a 1983 bomb attack on a French cultural centre in what was then West Berlin. Judicial official said, Mohammad Nabil Chritah, who was posted in West Berlin as a diplomat at the time, allegedly provided the explosives for the attack which killed one person and injured 23 others on Aug. 25, 1983. A group led by the Venezuelan extremist Raul Ramirez Sanchez, Alias Carlos, later claimed responsibility for the attack. Mr. Chritah, who turned himself in to authorities in January and has been held since then without bail, has told authorities that he was asked to store the explosives by one of Carlos' German associates, Johannes Weirich, but did not know at the time that they would be used in an attack. He told authorities that Weirich recovered the explosives the day of the attack. Also involved in the incident was Reinhold Voigt, an officer with the former East German secret police, the Stasi, who was convicted to four years in prison in April in a trial linking the former communist state with "international terrorism". Sources said an associate of Voigt was also going to be charged in the case.

Ghali recommends observer for Libya-Chad border

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Secretary General Boutros Ghali called Friday for the creation of a 14-member U.N. observer mission to supervise Libyan withdrawal from the Aouzou Strip on the border with Chad. Libya, which has occupied the territory since 1972, was to begin withdrawal from the zone earlier this month in compliance with a ruling by the International Court of Justice. The proposed mission of six civilian and nine military personnel would cost \$400,000 and help ensure peace in the region and provide assistance to the 4,000 residents in the zone, Dr. Ghali said. The withdrawal is scheduled to be completed May 30.

Jericho awaits signs of change

By Neila Sammakia
Agence France Presse

JERICHO, Occupied West Bank — The residents of this calm oasis town realise they are about to enter history as the first Palestinians to experience self-rule in the occupied West Bank. But they are still confused about what it all means.

New road layouts and freshly built checkpoints are about the only evidence of the change to come when self-rule is launched after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat sign the final agreement in Cairo next Wednesday.

"In September, everyone thought all would be ready in two days," said Adnan Hamad, a PLO official from Jericho, referring to the euphoria here after the Israeli-Palestinian peace accord was announced last September.

"Now there is disbelief, they don't think anything will happen."

"The people need concrete proof, not to think and analyse it all. They are just ready for new clean schools, roads, hospitals."

But the new authority does not even have suitable accommodation yet.

Jericho, a green valley nestled between sandy mountains, has a generous share of banana and orange orchards, palm groves and modest, neat homes with high walls. It has only one official building, along with a couple of cultural centres and a busy market place.

Soon after the autonomy deal is clinched, an initial 300-strong Palestinian police force is due to arrive here, and PLO officials are expected to fly in from their Tunis headquarters to take over temporarily until elections are held, maybe next October.

As autonomy gets underway Mr. Arafat is expected to appear on the scene, if only for a visit. Some say he will be put up in a rustic house on a slope overlooking a mosque and quaint cottages, belonging to a wealthy Jericho landowner.

It is still not known where the leadership, initially composed of 15 officials and hundreds of employees, will set up office. A few residents believe they may move into an old folks' home still under construction.

A plan to lease a hotel has fallen through.

"There was such a plan for a time," hotel manager Rajai Abu said. "But we haven't been approached about it. I don't think anyone knows where they will be located."

Apart from the problem of accommodation, Jericho residents are not sure what the deal will entail.

"I don't know what to say. It's all very confusing, vague," said shopkeeper Mussa Al Helou.

"This is not what I have dreamed of all my life. I dreamed of a complete Israeli withdrawal and a complete Palestinian authority, free to make decisions on everything — even in the air, on the water."

"But the Israelis interfere with everything."

Taxi-driver Jihad Al Awajneh was more upbeat.

"I hope if there is peace it will become easier to get permits, to move around."

"We've been waiting. First we're told the police will move in the next day, then we're told they won't. We've been treated like yokes."

PLO official Hamad agreed the past months had been full of disappointments. But he was not sure the future would bring better days.

"We look to the future power as people who have less experience with authority," he said.

"They will come from their homes and offices in wealthy Arab states, all clean and orderly, it will be very difficult, but the Jericho experiment is part of the struggle. We must go on."

At a checkpoint leading to the bridge across the Jordan River, an Israeli soldier said, "Maybe these are our last days here. We don't know yet."

"We want peace. I don't want this uniform anymore."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue Police 192, 21111, 637771
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896300
Public Security Department 63031
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 010230
Overseas Calls 661101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 774111
Jordan Television 774111
Radio Jordan 661101
Water Authority 661101
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 661101
Company 661101
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Al-Jadeed Maternity, J. Amn 64441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmiesani 664174
Shmiesani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 645845
Al-Muassat Hospital 09-888732
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/2
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marka 645845
Queen Alia Hospital 891611/15
Jinnah Hospital 09-888732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital 09-888732
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09-983323
Zarqa National Hospital 09-900360
Ibn Sina Hospital 09-888732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital 09-888732
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital 021-75555
Greek Catholic Hospital 021-72725
Ibn Al-Nafis Hospital 021-747100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital 031-4111

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-3, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:15 Bangkok (RJ)
07:00 Damascus (RJ)
07:00 Aqaba (RJ)
07:00 Aqaba, Vienna (RJ)
07:00 Rome (RJ)
07:00 Athens (RJ)
07:00 Cairo (RJ)
07:00 Bologna (RJ)
07:00 Riyadh (RJ)
07:00 Jeddah (RJ)
07:00 Larnaca (CY)
07:00 Beirut (RJ)
07:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
07:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
07:00 London (RJ)
07:00 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
07:00 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
07:00 Frankfurt (RJ)
07:00 Rome (RJ)
07:00 Vienna (RJ)
07:00 Aqaba (RJ)

FOR THE TRAVELLER

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

13:25 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GS)
14:25 Moscow (SU)
15:25 Larnaca (RJ)
15:25 Cairo (MS)
15:25 Beirut (ME)
15:25 Istanbul (TA)
16:25 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:30 Aqaba (RJ)
07:00 Beirut, Aqaba (RJ)
07:00 Aqaba, Frankfurt (RJ)
07:00 Aqaba, Vienna (RJ)
07:00 Rome (RJ)
07:00 Athens (RJ)
07:00 Cairo (RJ)
07:00 Bologna (RJ)
07:00 Riyadh (RJ)
07:00 Jeddah (RJ)
07:00 Larnaca (CY)
07:00 Beirut (RJ)
07:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
07:00 New Delhi (RJ)
07:00 Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
07:00 Bangkok (RJ)
07:00 Aqaba (RJ)
07:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
07:00 Sana'a (RJ)

HAZAR RAILWAY TRAIN

City, Amman 10:00 a.m. every Monday
City, Amman 10:00 a.m. every Monday
City, Amman 10:00 a.m. every Monday
City, Amman 10:00 a.m. every Monday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price per kg.
Apple 530/65
Banana 60
Banana (Mekka) 60
Cabbage 250/300
Cauliflower 250/300
Cucumber (large) 250/300
Cucumber (small) 180/220
Eggplant 320/380
Garlic 450/500
Green bean 220/250
Lemon 120/140
Marrow (large) 220/250
Marrow (small) 220/250
Mushroom 420/500
Orange 420/500
Onion (dry) 420/500
Onion (green) 160/200
Potato 250/300
Pepper (red) 320/380
Pepper (green) 320/380
Potato 380/420
Pumpkin 320/380
Spinach 500/550
Vine leaves 280/320
Vine leaves 650/700

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Le Monde Est A Vous
18:00 News in French
18:15 Fant Pas Réver
18:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Fatchpich
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 You Bet Your Life
20:55 20/20
21:10 Story Lives
22:00 News in English
22:20 Isl and Son

PRAYER TIMES

04:22 Fajr
05:46 Sunrise (Sunrise) Duhur
12:33 Dhuhr
16:12 Asr
19:19 Maghreb
20:45 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Street, Tel. 810740
Assumption of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Sallie Church Tel. 661257
Terrence Church Tel. 625626
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

62541

Armenian Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 77261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 664195
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 661591
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be fine with clouds appearing at low altitudes and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.
Min./Max. temp. 11/24
Aqaba 8/32
Deserts 8/26
Jordan Valley 16/31
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 23, Aqaba 30 Humidity readings: Amman 28 per cent, Aqaba 20 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Nidal As'ad 751672
Dr. Isam Asmar 890504
Dr. Sa'ad Ali 788265
Dr. Rana Abu Zeina 894295
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmiesani pharmacy 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najab pharmacy 847632
IRBID:
Dr. Fayer Qadi 248743
Alkud pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Tarq Hijawi 954445
Khalid pharmacy 954417



Leaders, citizens continue to offer sympathy to Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanians continued to arrive at Hashem Palace Saturday to offer condolences to His Majesty King Hussein. His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma and the Royal Family over the passing of Queen Zein Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother who died Tuesday at the age of 78.

The visitors, who signed their names in the official condolence register, represented popular and professional organisations, agricultural, commercial and industrial sectors, the media, cultural associations, heads of tribes, notables representing various refugee camps and private citizens.

Representatives of women's unions in Jordan paid condolence calls at Hashem Palace.

The Kingdom's embassies abroad were visited by Jordanian expatriates offering condolences. Also calling on the embassies were heads of diplomatic missions and notables in Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Lebanon and Yemen.

Also Saturday, Prince Salman Ben Abdul Aziz Al Saud, governor of the Riyadh region in Saudi Arabia, visited the Jordanian embassy in Riyadh and offered condolences in the name of King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz on the death of Queen Zein.

His Majesty King Hussein continued to receive cables of condolences from heads of foreign countries and international organisations.

Cabinet reviews recent events

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Saturday briefed the Cabinet on the visit to Jordan Thursday by Syrian President Hafez Al Assad who arrived to offer condolences to His Majesty King Hussein on the passing of Queen Zein Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother.

Dr. Majali also briefed the Cabinet on the outcome of a meeting between King Hussein and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in London last week, which resulted in the United States accepting a Jordanian proposal on a new land-based system for verifying compliance with the international sanctions against Iraq.

The acceptance came after months of deliberations which prompted King Hussein to link the Kingdom's return to the Washington-backed peace talks with Israel to an end to the sea-based inspections of all Jordan-bound vessels.

The prime minister also talked about the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement signed in Paris Friday.

The accord links relations between Israel and the future autonomous areas on customs, tariffs, monetary policy, labour, taxation, agriculture, fuel prices, manufacturing, insurance and tourism.

A statement that followed the Cabinet's regular session said that the ministers had a first reading of the Israel-PLO accord, which, it said, would be discussed fully by the joint Jordanian-Palestinian Higher Committee.

According to the statement, the Minister of Transport Adh Halaseb submitted a report on the outcome of the Syrian-Jordanian land transport and maritime transport companies' meetings in Damascus and his talks with Syrian government officials.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan presented a report on his visit to Egypt where he led Jordan's delegation to the Afro-Arab meeting on communications.

According to the statement, the Cabinet also listened to a report by Justice Minister Taher Hikmat on the outcome of the Arab justice ministers meeting.

Council appeals to Arab leader to avert civil war in Yemen

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Council of Islamic Organisations (CIO) and Societies in Jordan Saturday called on Arab leaders to intervene urgently in Yemen to avert all out civil war in that country.

In an appeal addressed to Arab kings and heads of states, the council said it was an Islamic duty to intervene in Yemen and reconcile the feuding northerners and southerners in the country "who are annihilating each other."

In the first such appeal by a Jordanian organisation on the crisis in Yemen, where reports said hundreds were killed or wounded in three days of clashes, the council warned that "a catastrophe was looming in the skies of Yemen that could possibly lead to a dreadful war."

Jordan tried to mediate the Yemeni crisis, which is rooted in political differences

between the leaders of the former North and South Yemen which merged in May 1990, and hosted the signing of a reconciliation and reform agreement between them. But the accord failed to end the crisis.

Subsequently Jordan said it was withdrawing from a military commission entrusted with separating the southern and northern armies which remain separate entities despite the merger.

Egypt and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are trying to end the crisis, but a precondition for the success of the effort is a guarantee that the Yemeni leaders would abide by the agreement signed in Amman.

The one-page statement issued by the Jordanian council said: "The tribal and community leaders... and parties are on armed alert for a war which will have no mercy for anyone, big or small."

Arab reaction, the statement said, will prove to the

world that the Arabs have failed to fight "the occupier (Israel) and liberate their land, the Arabs have decided to fight among themselves."

"The situation (in Yemen) is very grave and we warn of an impending disaster of an unprecedented level," said the council, an umbrella body for all Islamic institutions and societies in Jordan.

"We wish, demand and request that the Arab kings and heads of state visit Yemen and talk with the political, military and tribal leaders and other influential people there to put an end to the revolt and fire there," it added.

"The root cause of all problems, conflicts, bloody events and unrest in the Arab countries is the absence of justice and disobedience of God's teachings," the statement said.

It told the Arab leaders: "You are responsible in front of God and the people to save the people... and we beseech God to save the peo-

ple and make you glorious in heaven."

The statement was signed by the council's secretary-general, Abdul Latif Sbeih, and copies were sent to all Arab countries, including Jordan.

It was the second time in one month that the council issued appeals for end to conflicts in Muslim countries.

In a statement issued early this month, the council outlined a proposal to end the bloodshed in Afghanistan under the auspices of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC). That proposal called for an OIC committee to work in coordination with representatives of all Afghan factions towards ending the power struggle there through elections in 10 months time. It also urged the oil-rich Gulf states to extend financial support to ensure the success of the proposal.

It was not immediately known how the Afghan factions responded to the proposal.

Family appeals for release of Jordanian jailed in Syria

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The family of Dafi Al Jamaani, a Jordanian languishing in a Syrian jail since 1971, is appealing to international organisations, world governments and human rights bodies to seek his freedom.

Mr. Jamaani, 65, is the last of five Jordanians who were imprisoned in Syria since the early 70s over differences with the government of President Hafez Al Assad. The other four — Hakam Fayez, Yusuf Bourja, Hassan Al Khatib and Majali Nasraween — were released separately in the last 18 months.

All of them were members of the Arab leadership of the Baathist Party, who publicly voiced their opposition to some of the policies of President Assad after he took power in a bloodless coup in 1970.

"We don't know why he (Jamaani) is still in detention while all others detained with him have been released," said Fatima, sister of the prisoner and wife of Mr. Fayez.

"He is suffering severe health ailments and needs medical treatment," she told the Jordan Times, adding that family members were allowed to visit the prisoner once a month.

"We call upon the United Nations, all international human rights organisations and world governments with influence in Syria to secure his release," she said.

According to the sister, His Majesty King Hussein and

Jordanian officials appealed to the Syrian leader for the release of the detainees, but "nothing changed."

In a message sent to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, the family said: "This prisoner has been suffering for 24 years in prison, and we are suffering with him by being patient and still waiting."

"It is in your hand, Sir, to say your word about this separation between the father and his children and grandchildren," said the appeal. "A complete generation is growing up bearing about freedom, humanity and justice, but we see nothing of it except some bright words said every now and then while their hope is still suffering in Syria."

"Return the smiles to the faces of our children," it implored. "Return hope to hearts of our mothers, give us back life."

According to Mrs. Fayez, no Arab government — "not even Saudi Arabia" — is influential enough to get her brother released. "The people who can do something are the U.S. and European governments and perhaps the United Nations," she said.

Mr. Fayez, who was released in January 1993, shared a cell with Mr. Jamaani in the Al Mazza prison outside Damascus — known as the "Bastille of the Middle East" since it holds mostly long-term political prisoners — for more than 20 years and saw him last when he himself was released on Jan. 13, 1993.

"There seems to be a deliberate pattern," said the

white-haired Fayez referring to his release and that of the three other Jordanians. "The release came in intervals of five to six months for all of us. Obviously they did not want to release us all in one group."

Mr. Fayez was arrested on June 26, 1971, two weeks before Mr. Jamaani, a native of Madaba and a former captain in the Jordanian Army, was detained.

"There was no trial, no questions, nothing," he said. "We were just locked up and we saw no Syrian officials during the entire period of detention."

"I was told 15 minutes before my actual release that I was going to be freed," he said.

According to Mrs. Fayez, Mr. Jamaani and Mamdouh Maaytah, now a member of the Baathist leadership in Syria, were received by President Assad two days before Mr. Jamaani was detained.

"Dafi told me that he entered that meeting laughing and when President Assad asked him why he was laughing he replied that many others were being detained, including (former President Nureddin Atassi), and it was only a matter of time before the turn of Dafi and Maaytah," she said.

"To that, President Assad replied: 'I'll break the arms of those who harm you Dafi,'" Mrs. Fayez quoted her brother as saying. "Two days later Dafi was detained and, as a journalist wrote, they locked the door and threw away the key."

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Thai princess visits NHF

AMMAN — Her Royal Highness Princess Galyani Vadhana of Thailand visited Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) recently where she was briefed by senior NHF officials on the foundations development projects. The Thai princess also toured NHF's Jordan Design and Trade Center which includes special selections of woolen rugs, embroidered home furnishings, ceramics, glassware, basketry, fashionable clothing, wrought iron furniture, personal accessories and Islamic calligraphy items — all designed and produced by more than 3,000 Jordanian crafts men and women. Princess Galyani expressed her admiration of NHF's development endeavours and the high level of craftsmanship exhibited by the Jordan Design and Trade Center. The Princess presented NHF with cash donations from herself and on behalf of the group of Thai visitors accompanying her.

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Experts need to work more effectively to improve region's agriculture — seminar

By Ian Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Middle and Near East region as a whole faces urgent problems stemming from poor management of water resources for crop irrigation and improper use of agricultural chemicals such as pesticides and fertilisers, concluded experts at an international workshop held in Amman last week by the Regional Centre on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development for the Near East (CARDNE).

The burden, they felt, was on the governments and experts of the region's nations to find more appropriate

ways of dealing with farmers and effectively educating them on the proper usage of water and chemicals for agriculture.

At present, in the Middle East, "an average of 20 per cent of all pesticides used goes to the crops themselves and 80 per cent seeps through the ground soil to cause environmental damage," said Dr. Ibrahim Al Natbir of the University of Jordan.

The farmers, he said, "do not know how to spray the proper dosage on their plants without causing pollution."

He explained that many times a crop might be barbed over spraying of the pesticide or its use too

close to harvest time, "which means that the crop is harvested with a heavy residue of the pesticide still on it."

Moreover, he added, many farmers do not know how to safely store, clean and dispose of pesticide containers and tools, and are not familiar with protective clothing for spraying pesticides.

This, he said, can lead to poisoning of the farmer and his family as well as additional environmental damage.

The panel members agreed that Near East governments need to develop tighter policies on the testing of newly imported pesticides to insure that they do not pose an undue environmental threat

and on licensing pesticide dealers, "because, as with medical pharmacists, they are dealing with compounds which can cause much harm if improperly used," said Dr. Abdul Latif Kichli of the Agricultural Research Institute of Lebanon.

In Lebanon, he said, there are currently few to no regulations governing the importing and selling of pesticides.

Another expert added that in Jordan, there are strict controls on licensing pesticide dealers, but no regulations which prescribe testing of newly imported pesticide compounds for safety.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILMS

- ★ Film in Spanish entitled "Como Ser Mujer Y No Morir En El Intento" at the Spanish Cultural Centre on Monday at 6:30 (Tel. 613077).
- ★ Film entitled "Le Faussaire" at the French Cultural Centre on Monday at 8:00 p.m.

ARAB POETS GATHERING

- ★ Poetry recital by Arab poets at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture on Sunday and Monday at 7:00 p.m. (Tel. 695291).

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Opening of an art exhibition by five Egyptian artists at Darat Al Funn of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation

in Jabal Luweibdeh on Monday at 6:00 p.m. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).

- ★ Exhibition by artist Mohammad Muhraddin at Ab'ad Art Gallery.
- ★ Opening of an exhibition by artist Helmi El-Toumi at Baladna Art Gallery on Monday at 6:00 p.m. (Tel. 687598).
- ★ Photo exhibition entitled "Faces of Jordan" at the American Center.
- ★ Exhibition by artists Dr. Ali Ghoubi, Hussein Da'seh, Adnan Al Sharif, Abdul Hussein Tawajj, Salmaan Abbas, and Hafez Al Droubi at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).
- ★ Jordanian-Iraqi contemporary exhibition by over 80 artists at Ain Art Gallery in Wadi Saqra (9:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 644451).

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Opinion & Analysis

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY-MONDAY, MAY 1-2, 1994

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Eyes on Damascus

IN ANTICIPATION of the imminent signing of the self-rule agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Cairo next week, focus is rapidly shifting to Damascus, where U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived yesterday, probably carrying an Israeli "global" peace plan which would entertain a phased Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights in return for a gradual normalisation of bilateral relations between the two countries.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin set the tone for the new round of peace effort on the Syrian track by telling his people last week that his government would be willing to dismantle Israeli settlements on the Golan Heights and offer meaningful territorial concessions to Damascus in return for real peace. The Israeli offer, coupled with the standing proposal to deploy U.S. troops on the demarcation lines between Syria and Israel, could give the renewed effort for peace a meaningful boost, which should be welcomed by all parties.

It is not easy to tell what the results of Mr. Christopher's visit to Damascus will be until the Syrian government has an adequate opportunity to examine the old-new Israeli ideas. Most probably, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad would not want to take any Israeli bait as he would try to strengthen his negotiating position as much as possible. Syria has always called for a crystal-clear commitment from Israel to withdraw completely from the occupied Syrian territory and to dismantle all Israeli settlements based on the full implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

What would be worth watching is how Damascus will attempt to blend in policy terms its long-standing pledge to seek a comprehensive peace in the area with handling new elements in the Israeli offer.

There is a meeting of the minds on this score between Amman and Damascus and this has led Jordan to slow down the pace of its peace talks with Israel until there is marked progress on all tracks of the negotiations. Should Mr. Christopher's trip to Damascus prove successful, there can be no doubt that Jordan's track would, in due course, see a revival, especially now that the Aqaba blockade is on the way to effective resolution.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ALL INDICATIONS are that the Middle East peace process is gathering pace, and the flurry of diplomatic activity in the region stands out as a witness to that, said Al Rai Arabic daily. In light of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's recent statements concerning peace with Syria and the coming war of the region by the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, one can only expect from the Arab countries involved in the peace process to double their efforts to coordinate their stands and take a united position with regard to the various issues related to the negotiations with Israel, said the daily. The Arab states are called on to be vigilant and aware of Israel's manoeuvres at this juncture because the Israelis are known to be seeking separate deals with different Arab parties, warned the daily. It said that Israeli leaders cannot be taken for granted and Israel has never backed its words with deeds. The paper said the Jewish state was never committed to the requirements of a permanent peace and international legitimacy. The sudden agreements between the Palestinians and the Israelis in Paris and Cairo and Mr. Rabin's declared intention to direct Israel's attention towards peace with Syria should be enough signs for the Arabs that the Israelis continue to seek separate treaties, concluded the daily.

DUSTOUR daily praised the Interior Ministry for adopting new measures designed to facilitate travel procedures across the Jordan River bridges. The new measures constitute yet another facet of the Jordanian strategy intended to ensure the opening of the spirit of unity within the Jordanian-Palestinian family and to enhance the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the face of Israel's arbitrary rule, said the daily. By implementing the directives of His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Ministry has reaffirmed the need for keeping the bridges open in order to maintain strong ties between the people on the two sides of the river, said Al Dustour. Indeed, the facilities created by Jordan to the residents of the occupied Arab territories embody the Kingdom's keenness on supporting the Palestinians and helping them to achieve their aspirations.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Arab economic boycott of Israel

By Dr. Fahed Faneek

The beginning
PALESTINIAN INFORMAL boycott to Jewish economic activities started at the grass root level as early as 1936, when Palestinians realised that the Jewish Agency was busy building industries to create jobs for Jewish emigrants in its bid for massing Jews from all over the world to establish a Zionist state in Palestine, which was under British mandate. However, the Arab economic boycott to Israel was formally adopted by the Arab League in May 1951, when a main Arab boycott head-office was established in Damascus. Each individual Arab country was required to establish its own boycott branch office. The Arab states offices were attached to the ministry of economy, or the ministry of finance, or the ministry of defence as the case may be in each country. Coordination and main decisions to enter firms into the blacklist or remove them were the responsibility of the main office in Damascus and an annual meeting was held there for all offices.

The boycott was open-ended. No time limit was set.

Methods and objectives

Arab economic boycott of Israel started with the establishment of the Jewish state in 1948. The boycott was not imposed on economic considerations, or as a measure of trade protection from Israeli competition. It was imposed for political purposes, namely to punish Israel for occupying Arab land, and to weaken the Israeli economy, which supports the military might of the Israeli armed forces.

The Arab boycott of Israel can be divided into two categories: negative boycott which means blocking any exchange of goods and services between the Arabs and Israel; and positive boycott which means inducing third parties to refrain from investing in Israel or financing its economy.

The purpose of negative, sometimes called primary boycott, is to deprive the Israeli economy from benefiting from the opportunity which the vast Arab markets can provide if they were open to Israel. The purpose of positive, also called secondary boycott, is to deprive the Israeli economy from foreign investments, which could help to strengthen Israel and enable it to sustain its occupation of Arab land, or undertake further expansionary adventures at the expense of Arab lands.

The primary boycott of Israel was partially broken in two major instances: One is the Israeli access to the markets of the West Bank and Gaza Strip since 1967, and another when Egypt normalised its political and economic relations with Israel following the Camp David accords. Aside from those two incidents, it is believed that Israel was able to send small amounts of its products to the Arab markets through third countries after falsely labeling the products as "made in Cyprus" or made in Greece. Some Israeli sources claim that \$500 million worth of Israeli products found their way to Arab markets, including Israeli inputs in West Bank products allowed to reach the Arab markets.

The Unified law of boycott

The Arab League Council in its 22nd session adopted a unified text of law of boycott of Israel, which was consequently adopted in each Arab country, consisting of 12 articles as follows:

Article 1:

All persons and legal bodies are hereby forbidden from

making contracts, either directly or through intermediaries, with legal bodies or persons who reside in Israel or carry Israeli nationality or act on its behalf or work for its interest wherever they reside if the subject of the contract is commercial transactions or financial operations or any other dealing of any nature. All national and foreign companies and firms having interest or branches or general agents in Israel are to be considered persons and legal bodies that cannot be dealt with as indicated by the council of ministers or the authority designated by the council of ministers, in accordance with recommendations of the annual liaison officers conference.

Article 2:

Goods, commodities and products of all kinds and categories, together with all financial instruments and any other Israeli movable property, are not allowed to enter or be exchanged in the country. All goods and products made in Israel or having Israeli inputs, irrespective of their ratio, will be treated as Israeli goods or products, whether they came directly from Israel or through any indirect way.

Goods and products reexported from Israel, or made outside Israel for exportation on its behalf, or on behalf of any person or legal body mentioned in Article 1, are to be treated just like Israeli products.

Article 3:

In situations specified by the competent authorities, the importer must furnish a certificate of origin, showing the following information:

- a) The country of origin (which should not be Israel).
- b) That no Israeli inputs what so ever are included in the composition of the product, irrespective of ratio.

Article 4:

All concerned authorities should take the necessary measures to prevent materials specified by the liaison officers from being exported to foreign countries if it was proved that those countries reexport such material to Israel.

Article 5:

Articles 2, 3 and 4 are applicable to commodities that may enter free zones or be exported from those free zones.

The same applies to all commodities that may be brought to the country or may cross its territories which are destined for Israel, or to any person or organisation residing in Israel, but without prejudice with any international agreement that the country may be party to.

Article 6:

It is forbidden to display goods or commodities referred to in Article 2, or sell, or buy or own such goods. Barter or donation is to be treated like sale or purchase.

Article 7:

Those who violate articles 1, 2, or 3 are to be punished by imprisonment with hard work for a period not less than three years. Simultaneously with imprisonment, the violators may be also fined by up to \$5,000. If the crime was committed by a legal body, the sentence should be applied to the natural person(s) who committed the violations related to the legal body.

In all cases, the subject products are to be confiscated, together with the transportation means used to commit the violation, if the owners were aware of the violation.

Article 8:

Punishment mentioned in Article 7, except for confiscation, will be pardoned for one or more of the offenders, if he or they informed the government of the crime they are party to, provided the information led to the discovery of the crime they were about to participate in.

Article 9:

A summary of the verdict condemning violations of this law should be displayed, at the expense of the convicted persons, in large letters at the door of his business, including factories and stores, for a period of three months.

Removing the above summary or hiding it in any way is punishable by imprisonment or a fine not exceeding \$20 or by one of these two punishments.

Article 10:

A reward of 20 per cent of the value of goods subject to verdict against crimes specified in this law should be paid as incentive to any person who gave the information leading the discovery of the violation, whether he is a government employee or otherwise. The reward may be higher if local laws specify higher rewards. If the credit goes to more than one person, the reward will be divided among them in proportion to their efforts.

Article 11:

Employees charged with the responsibility of enforcing this law are authorised to present evidence of crimes committed in violation of its provisions.

Article 12:

All laws and regulations that contradict this law are hereby declared null and void.

The above is unofficial translation.

Present status of boycott

Officially, there is nothing new about the Arab boycott of Israel until this moment. No decision have been made yet. However, the atmosphere is different. After the Gulf War, Kuwait started to think of the unthinkable. It unofficially started to ignore the secondary boycott. After starting the peace negotiations, America started to put pressure on the Arab countries, such as Jordan and the Gulf states, to lift the boycott as a confidence building measure, but so far nothing in return is being offered.

The annual meeting of Arab boycott liaison officers in Damascus late in 1993 was called off and postponed indefinitely. Observers thought that the cancellation of the meeting happened under American diplomatic pressure and that no further meetings will take place.

Economists believe that the removal of the secondary boycott of Israel is very important to the Israeli economy in that it will increase foreign investments in Israel. Professor Stanley Fischer, of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) believes that the secondary boycott has deprived Israel of more the \$2 billion a year of potential foreign investments.

By Anthony Lewis

BOSTON — The first great Nazi crime in World War II was the terror bombing of Rotterdam on May 14, 1940. The Luftwaffe destroyed the city centre and killed 900 people. The world, shocked, called it the Rape of Rotterdam.

The Serbian assault on Gorazde is a crime of similar character. Over the last three weeks hundreds of Serbian mortars and heavy guns and 60 tanks fired at point-blank range into that small Bosnian city. More than 700 people have died.

In 1940 the anti-Hitler forces did not yet have the means to stop the Nazis. In 1994 there is no such excuse. NATO has overwhelming military power in Europe. It has not been used to stop the Serbian aggression because NATO governments were indifferent to the slaughter, blind to its consequences or incompetent in the use of power.

Comparison of today's Serbian leaders with the Nazis always brings the objection that the Serbs are not a menace on the same scale. True, even the Greater Serbia they want would not be anything like the threat that Nazi Germany was. But in other respects the analogy is apt.

President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia and the Bosnian Serbian leaders,

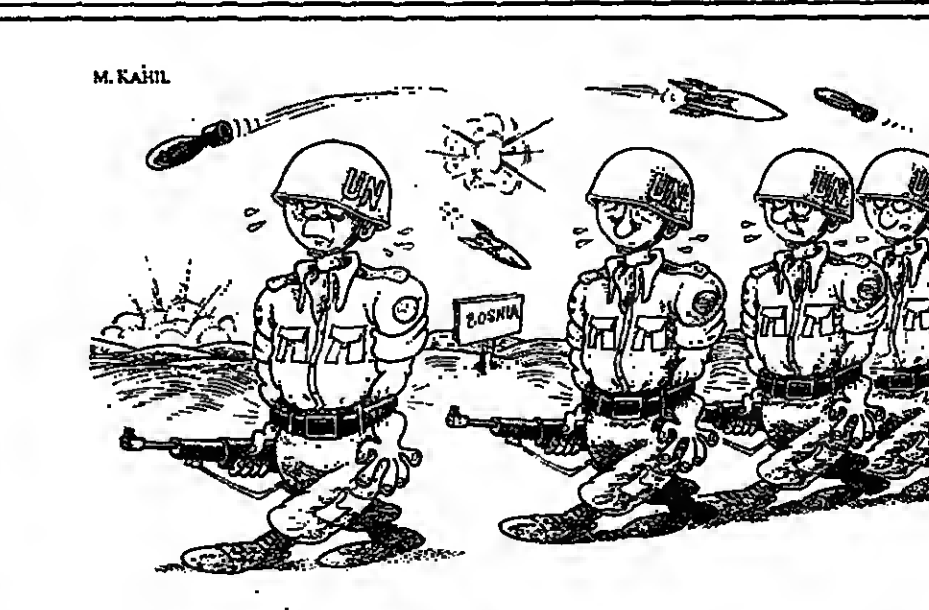
Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic, are gripped by hatred — psychopathic hatred, one has to think.

They have no compunction of slaughtering the civilians of Gorazde because those people are of a different religion: Muslims.

No one since Josef Goebbels, the inventor of the Big Lie, has covered up killing with lies as brazen as those uttered almost daily by the Serbian leaders. When NATO aircraft carried out pinpoint raids two weeks ago on Serbian forces shelling Gorazde, a spokesman for Mr. Karadzic said that "no shelling of Gorazde had taken place." Mr. Karadzic said that Gorazde was a mostly Serbian city; its pre-war population was in fact 70 per cent Muslim.

Mr. Karadzic said: "The Serbian state unilaterally proclaims peace in Gorazde. With this, the Gorazde crisis comes to an end." As he spoke, the Serbian forces intensified their shelling. Even the Russians gave up on Serbian leaders as irredeemable liars.

One of the most disgraceful aspects of the world's response to Serbian aggression has been the glib performance of the top United Nations official on the scene, Yasushi Akashi. Again and again he has fallen for transparent Serbian lies. On April 17, after meeting



A genocidal aggression, and no Churchill in sight

with Mr. Karadzic, Mr. Akashi said: "Dr. Karadzic and I have agreed a ceasefire in and around Gorazde should become effective immediately. We agreed that forces should be withdrawn from the front lines as far as possible as soon as possible." The Serbian assault, of course, continued.

This past weekend, when Serbian forces at first failed to meet the terms of the NATO ultimatum to stop

shelling Gorazde, Mr. Akashi again blocked NATO commanders' plans for immediate bombing. Once again he relied on false Serbian promises of early compliance.

When President Bill Clinton finally decided to do something about Gorazde, he proposed that the ultimatum be enforced by NATO air strikes without seeking U.N. approval. But that part of his plan was blocked by other

NATO governments.

What Serbian forces have done at Gorazde — the shelling of an essentially undefended city, the deliberate targeting of hospitals and refugee centres — is a straightforward war crime. But does the West really care? Is it serious about stopping the crime? That remains uncertain.

If we in the West are serious, one thing we should do is speed up preparations for

prosecution of the war criminals. General Mladic, his principal officers, Mr. Karadzic and Mr. Milosevic should all be put on notice that their actions at Gorazde are prima facie evidence of crimes. In addition, their assets overseas should be seized.

Mr. Milosevic is not exempt because he is in Belgrade. The guns and tanks at Gorazde were not made by the Bosnian Serbs. They came from the Yugoslav National Army. Similarly, Serbia should not be exempt from the NATO ultimatum. Sources of supply for the aggressors should be prime targets for air strikes.

Surely by now the West should be able to see the danger of letting genocidal aggression in Europe go unchecked. Or is our view distorted by the fact that the victims are Muslims?

In his last book, due out soon, Richard Nixon said the civilised world would not have permitted the Bosnian horror to go on so long if the victims had been "predominantly Christian or Jewish."

Gorazde, after all the other cruelty, makes it certain that the Serbian nation will bear the stigma of the demagogues who led the aggression, as Germany was marked by the Nazis. But there are no Churchillian heroes in the West: only weaklings who resisted too little, too late.

The New York Times.

Peace the surprise winner in S. Africa's elections

By David Tucker
Renter

JOHANNESBURG — Despite bombings blamed on die-hard whites, South Africa's historic election week has been surprisingly peaceful.

In a country where 15,000 people have died in political unrest in the four years it has taken to dismantle apartheid, the election week death toll up to Friday was just 34.

"People expected the worst, but it failed to materialise," said Vanessa Barolsky, a researcher with Peace Action, an independent violence monitoring group. Peace monitors and police in the killing fields of KwaZulu-Natal, where more than 2,000 people died in political violence last year, described the all-race elections as a victory for peace. "Before the election things

had built up to such a peak. We expected intimidation and violence to be at a high level... But things have calmed down a great deal," said captain Kim Van Niekirk of the Natal security committee.

"It's been unbelievable... It sets the ground-work for a very healthy working relationship for all South Africans," said Anne McKay, spokeswoman for the regional peace committee.

The week began badly, with a car bomb killing nine people on Sunday in central Johannesburg, South Africa's commercial capital. Worse was to come. The election bombing campaign, blamed on whites opposed to black majority rule, killed 10 people at a taxi rank in the Johannesburg suburb of Germiston on Monday. A bomb thrown into a Pre-

toria restaurant later in the day, killed two more people. A car bomb at South Africa's biggest airport, Jan Smuts outside Johannesburg, wounded 16 people, including foreigners, on Wednesday, second day of polling in the elections.

The police response was swift. They detained 34 suspects and seized arms caches. Nelson Mandela, whose African National Congress (ANC) is expected to win the elections, praised the white-led police on Friday for their quick response. "The ease with which the police have made a breakthrough... I think already we have defused the situation," he said.

Polling continued for an extra day on Friday in six former homelands where millions were unable to vote, mainly because of bureaucratic bungling. The death toll, which in-

cluded deaths in KwaZulu-Natal, was substantially lower than the average weekly toll during the run-up to the elections when dozens were dying every day.

"It doesn't mean it is the end of conflict but it is an important step in establishing long-term peace," said Ms. Barolsky.

"People finally had the opportunity to express themselves through some means other than violence. It shows that South Africans want democracy," she said.

Political analyst Bill Sass said he believed the major factor in curbing the violence in the elections of the Zulu-dominated Inkatha Freedom Party and the right-wing white Freedom Front. "This meant that neither the right-wing nor Zulu extremists could mobilise to oppose the elections. What's left is the

manic fringe," he said.

Most of the 15,000 victims of violence in four years since reformist white President F. W. de Klerk unbanned opposition groups and began dismantling apartheid have been blacks killed in clashes between Inkatha supporters and those of the ANC.

Mr. Sass said the new national unity government would need to move quickly to meet the demands of conservative whites and those of Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini and Inkatha over the status of the Zulu monarchy.

"Extremist support is already withering on the vine but the government will need to carry on negotiations with conservative parties and offer a few concessions here and there," he said. Mr. Sass said the small turnout at neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement

(AWB) rallies and the arrests of the 34 rightwingers was proof the right-wing support-base was crumbling.

"The police were helped in the arrests of the bombers by people within the right wing. They (radicals) have been marginalised. Hearts and minds have turned against them."

Political scientist Willem Kiehnans, well-known for his apocalyptic vision of the new South Africa, said it was a miracle that there had been so little violence during the elections, which he described as a fiasco and a farce.

Mr. Kiehnans predicted more violence around the corner. "When Mandela takes over and is unable to deliver on his election promises we will see trouble. His chickens will come home to roost," he said. "I pray God to save the new South Africa."

Features

Nineteen years after, Vietnam-U.S. ties on mend

By John Rogers
Reuters

HANOI — It's taken 19 years, but the former Vietnam war enemies are on talking terms and doing business, with formal relations in sight.

Since President Bill Clinton lifted a 30-year economic embargo against Hanoi on Feb. 3, the United States is now more in evidence in Communist-ruled Vietnam than at any time since the end of the war on April 30, 1975.

Fifty U.S. companies displayed their wares at the first U.S. trade fair in Hanoi last week and 100,000 Vietnamese turned out to see what the Americans had to offer, from consumer goods to construction machinery.

U.S. companies are competing for contracts to rebuild woefully inadequate highways and other infrastructure, which Vietnam is set to upgrade, and for work in the offshore oil and gas industry.

Relations between Hanoi and Washington are on the mend.

Officials involved in negotiations on establishing liaison offices in the two capitals say there are a few outstanding issues on the scope and function of these embassies-in-waiting but no major obstacles.

"It could happen in two weeks, or it could happen in six months," an official in Hanoi said. "It's just two early to say."

Both governments would like to see the offices, plans for which were announced by Mr. Clinton in February, open sooner rather than later, the official added.

"We haven't reached all the

agreements we need to reach," an American official in Washington said, declining to be more specific.

Separately, the two governments have started a dialogue on the sensitive issue of human rights, and held a first round of talks on their mutual claims to a total of \$520 million in property and other assets frozen since the end of the war.

In its latest report, the U.S. State Department said Vietnam "continued to violate human rights in 1993, severely limiting freedom of speech, press, assembly and association and not tolerating dissent."

Vietnam countered the U.S. verdict as "unfair objective."

Foreign diplomats expect disputes on the issue, similar to those the United States has with China, to surface increasingly after full ties are established, and Vietnam seeks more favored nation trading privileges.

But human rights questions are not expected to prevent the two governments from establishing relations.

Many neutral observers in Hanoi believe the momentum for normalization is so strong that, barring hitches, Hanoi and Washington will have exchanged ambassadors by the 20th anniversary of the end of the war this time next year.

On April 30, 1975, Communist tanks smashed through the gates of the old south Vietnam presidential palace in Saigon, now Ho Chi Minh city, and the Saigon regime surrendered.

U.S. forces that had bolstered the losing side had withdrawn from Vietnam and the rest of Indochina under the Paris peace accords in 1973.

U.S. Ambassador Graham Martin and other Americans evacuated Saigon on April 29, 1975.

Vietnam was reunited the following year with Hanoi as the capital.

It took the end, in 1989, of Vietnam's 10-year military involvement in neighboring Cambodia to start the long haul towards ties between Hanoi and Washington in earnest.

The real acceleration came last year when a series of U.S. missions reported excellent cooperation from the Vietnamese on the issue that Mr. Clinton was said the key, determining the fate of more than 2,000 U.S. pilots and soldiers still listed as missing in action (MIAs) in Indochina.

High-ranking officials met in Vietnam and the United States and during a conference in Singapore.

The U.S. continues its \$100-million-a-year attempt, with Vietnamese help, to account for its MIAs, though it appears to have subsided as a political issue in the United States since Mr. Clinton lifted the economic embargo.

However, some analysts see U.S. sensitivity over ties with Hanoi, including opposition from some war veterans' and MIA families' groups, as limiting Mr. Clinton's freedom of movement.

"Definitely relations between the two countries will be normalized," said a veteran Communist diplomat in Hanoi.

"There are no difficulties from Hanoi. The difficulties are from the other side, internal difficulties of President Clinton."

By Barry Schweid
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Clinton's new tough line on Bosnia suggests that 15 months of caution may be giving way to a new confidence abroad, as the NATO ally, with some reluctance, signs on.

Last year, the president was in a different fix. He wanted to provide weapons to the Muslim-led government and have NATO bomb some Serbian artillery sites. But only Germany and the Netherlands were willing to go along when Clinton sent Secretary of State Warren Christopher to Europe seeking the allies' endorsement.

The "hit and strike" strategy was shelved, and the Serbs went ahead with their assault on Muslim enclaves, driving appeals that they agree to a ceasefire and negotiate a settlement.

Clinton hardly came across as a swashbuckler. He said it would be "arrogant" for the United States to assume it could take care of all the world's problems.

Indeed, Rwanda, where tens of thousands of Africans have been killed in bloody conflict between rival clans, is off the board as far as the United States is concerned.

And Clinton pulled remaining U.S. troops out of Somalia. He has shown no interest, either, in intervening in Haiti to try to remove the ruling military junta.

But he is willing to take a stand in Bosnia. On the grounds that U.S. interests are involved, the United States proposed bombing the Serbs if they did not withdraw their heavy weapons from battered Gorazde. And this time, NATO said all right.

No American ground troops are going to Bosnia, the president said, at least until there is a settlement of the two-year war. But U.S. warplanes will enter the conflict if the Serbs defy the ultimatum.

The interests Clinton and Christopher said were at stake include preventing a spillover to other Balkan countries and upholding NATO's functions in the post-cold war era.

The United States itself is not threatened. And yet Clinton is prepared to use force.

Sen. Sam Nunn, the Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, would



Bosnian Muslims demonstrate in favour of continued U.N. bombing of Serb positions around Gorazde (AFP photo)

New muscle on Bosnia shows fresh determination

have the United States show more force — having NATO bomb Serbia, if need be, to compel the Serbs to quit their siege.

Other members of Congress prefer that the United States unilaterally lift the arms embargo against Bosnia.

Bombing Serbia, Christopher said last week, is not under consideration now.

though it may be in the future, Clinton, without providing any details, said he would weigh "other options" if the ultimatum does not succeed.

As for lifting the embargo, Clinton said it would be a mistake for the United States to act alone. Other nations, he said, might feel justified in excluding themselves from other resolutions of the U.N.

Security Council, which imposed the embargo on all sides in Bosnia.

Nevertheless, Clinton has crossed a line with the ultimatum. It is an assertion of U.S. power, not on the scale of the cold war era, but using military muscle nonetheless to try to deter aggression.

Not everyone in Congress is pleased. Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., complained this

week that Congress had not given its consent. He also said the "mother test" had not been met. That is, Hollings said, if a mother lost a son or daughter in Bosnia, there was no way to justify the loss to her.

Christopher acknowledged even air action carries risks. But he — and the president — have decided finally the risk is worth taking.

Report conflict over Yemen crisis

(Continued from page 1)

ter signed in February in a bid to save the four-year-old union of north and south.

A joint military commission grouping Omani and Jordanian officers and the American and French military attaches is in Damar in an attempt to rein in the fighting.

Sanaa officials said it would be proceeding to Abyan and Lahaj provinces around Aden on a similar task.

Officials here said an envoy sent by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was trying to set up a meeting between Saleh and Beidh.

But, with political tension at boiling point, the halt in the bloodletting may only be a temporary respite in the turmoil sweeping one of the Arab World's poorest states.

It was not clear whether there was much room for compromise between the conserva-

tive, tribal-oriented north and the socialist south.

Two earlier rounds of peace talks — in Jordan in February and in Oman earlier this month — foundered amid military clashes and seemingly intractable political differences in Yemen.

These have threatened to tear apart the May 1990 merger between north and south that had been split since 1839.

ANC predicts big victory

(Continued from page 1)

ANC and its main black rival, Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party.

About 15,000 people have died in political unrest since Mr. de Klerk started dismantling apartheid in 1990. But the level of violence has fallen away dramatically with the elections.

"I wish to appeal to the people of KwaZulu and the rest of South Africa to turn their backs against violence," the king said on state television.

"We (the Zulu nation) still have a very long and hard road to travel. By voting we have just taken the first step towards our destiny," added King Zwelithini, whose decision to back the poll was crucial to Inkatha's participation.

Mr. Buthelezi, the king's uncle, said on Saturday he would accept the election result, even if he lost in KwaZulu. But he refused to vouch for the mood of the people if they felt they had been cheated.

Asked if he would accept defeat, Mr. Buthelezi told Reuters: "I would accept the result, yes."

The Inkatha leader said he was worried by widespread irregularities in the ballot process and warned that if the people were dissatisfied it could jeopardise future peace in South Africa.

"I hope this (voting irregularities) is not a widespread problem because if it is there are going to be very serious problems," he told Reuters in Ulundi. "You must remember that in Angola the elections went through, it was certified free and fair, but there was never any peace there (even) until now."

Ballot boxes were still arriving at some of the hundreds of counting centres at noon (1000 GMT) Saturday. Once it is verified that the boxes are legitimate, they are resealed and moved to another area within the station for counting. Each ballot was to be counted twice.

CANCELLATION OF RECEPTION

Joining the Jordanian family in mourning the passing of Her Majesty the Queen Mother Zeine Al Sharaf,

Ideal Systems (Apple Computer authorised dealer in Jordan) announces the cancellation of its reception which was to be inaugurated under the patronage of his Royal Highness Abdullah Bin Al Hussein on the occasion of opening its computer exhibition (POWER 94) at the Amman Marriott Hotel on Tuesday, May 3rd, 1994 at 6pm.

The exhibition will be open from Wednesday morning, May 4th, 1994 till Friday evening, May 6th, 1994 from 10am - 2pm and from 4pm - 9:30pm.

We take this opportunity to extend our sincere and heartfelt condolences to His Majesty King Hussein and to the Royal Hashemite Family.

May her soul rest in peace.



POWER 94

IDEAL
Ideal Systems (Jordan) 137 Zuhair St., P.O. Box 142736 Amman 11144 Jordan
Main Tel: 4821111, 4821112 Fax: 4827476

Jordan Times
Tel. 667171

الجمعية الاردنية للعلوم الطبية للفلسطينيين

يانصيب



■ الجائزة الكبرى
سيارة مرسيدس C 180
مجموكة 1994

■ جوائز أخرى
سعر البطاقة خمسة دنانير
Ticket JD 5

■ السحب على الدواليب
بتاريخ ١٤/٥/٩٤ وستعلن
النتائج في الصحف المحلية

الجوائز الأخرى

- ١ - الجائزة الأولى: سيارة مرسيدس بنز C 180
- ٢ - الجائزة الثانية: سيارة مرسيدس بنز C 180
- ٣ - الجائزة الثالثة: سيارة مرسيدس بنز C 180
- ٤ - الجائزة الرابعة: سيارة مرسيدس بنز C 180
- ٥ - الجائزة الخامسة: سيارة مرسيدس بنز C 180
- ٦ - الجائزة السادسة: سيارة مرسيدس بنز C 180
- ٧ - الجائزة السابعة: سيارة مرسيدس بنز C 180
- ٨ - الجائزة الثامنة: سيارة مرسيدس بنز C 180
- ٩ - الجائزة التاسعة: سيارة مرسيدس بنز C 180
- ١٠ - الجائزة العاشرة: سيارة مرسيدس بنز C 180
- ١١ - الجائزة الحادية عشرة: سيارة مرسيدس بنز C 180
- ١٢ - الجائزة الثانية عشرة: سيارة مرسيدس بنز C 180
- ١٣ - الجائزة الثالثة عشرة: سيارة مرسيدس بنز C 180
- ١٤ - الجائزة الرابعة عشرة: سيارة مرسيدس بنز C 180
- ١٥ - الجائزة الخامسة عشرة: سيارة مرسيدس بنز C 180
- ١٦ - الجائزة السادسة عشرة: سيارة مرسيدس بنز C 180
- ١٧ - الجائزة السابعة عشرة: سيارة مرسيدس بنز C 180
- ١٨ - الجائزة الثامنة عشرة: سيارة مرسيدس بنز C 180
- ١٩ - الجائزة التاسعة عشرة: سيارة مرسيدس بنز C 180
- ٢٠ - الجائزة العشرون: سيارة مرسيدس بنز C 180

أماكن بيع التذاكر

- ١ - مكتبة الجامعة - شارع الجارزين
- ٢ - مكتبة الجامعة - جبل الوبيدة
- ٣ - مطعم روميو - جبل عمان
- ٤ - العجيمي - أم الدينة
- ٥ - فينيو روفوف - الدوار السابع
- ٦ - ميوزك بوكس - الدوار السابع
- ٧ - محمص النحاس - ضاحية الرابية
- ٨ - شركة فورم لانتال - مقابل فندق فيلاتاليا
- ٩ - شركة هيريز الدعاية والإعلان - وادي صفاة - مجمع صفاة
- ١٠ - شركة هيريز الدعاية والإعلان - وادي صفاة - مجمع صفاة
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- ٢٠ - شركة هيريز الدعاية والإعلان - وادي صفاة - مجمع صفاة

Japan's Hata studies ways to stem yen rise

مکتبہ اعلیٰ، قسطنطنیہ

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Bosnian Serbs violate exclusion zone in Gorazde, U.N. says

SARAJEVO (R) — U.N. officials said Saturday Bosnian Serb forces had fired on British peacekeepers within a demilitarised zone around Gorazde.

The report cast doubt on Serb compliance with NATO demands to withdraw from the area.

A British unit was patrolling the edge of the zone at 1330 local (1130 GMT) Friday when it came under fire from Bosnian Serb troops south east of Gorazde. U.N. military spokesman Eric Chaperon told reporters.

The British U.N. soldiers returned fire and withdrew. The Serbs followed the British patrol and fired on them again. The Brit Batt (British battalion) patrol returned fire and withdrew successfully without taking casualties. Maj. Chaperon said in Sarajevo.

The British claimed to have caused three casualties on the Bosnian Serb side but this had yet to be confirmed, he added.

The shooting incident contradicted earlier U.N. reports from peacekeeping comman-

der British Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose that the Serbs had fully complied with U.N. and NATO demands to withdraw completely from a three kilometre zone around the Muslim town of Gorazde.

NATO issued an ultimatum last week ordering the Serbs to pull back their forces three kilometres from the eastern Bosnian enclave or face air strikes.

U.N. officials had said last weekend the Serbs had effectively complied with U.N. and NATO demands aimed at ending a three-week Serb offensive on Gorazde.

But the Muslim-led Bosnian army has insisted the Serbs continue to violate the exclusion zone.

Bosnian Muslim leaders have alleged that Serb soldiers have remained in the village of Zapocici near Gorazde and are posing as civilian policemen.

U.N. and Western officials said Saturday they were concerned that both Serb and Muslim armies were preparing for a major confrontation in northern Bosnia.

Maj. Chaperon said U.N. military observers reported a military buildup by Muslim-led forces and the Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) around Brcko, the weakest part of a corridor that links Serb-held lands in Bosnia and Croatia to Serbia proper.

"We have heard of reinforcements from the BH (Bosnian army) and the BSA. We have seen BH troops heading for the corridor and from aerial reconnaissance there are indications of artillery from the BSA," Maj. Chaperon told reporters.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has hinted that northern Bosnia, which may be the next target of a Bosnian Serb offensive, could be given international protection.

Unlike Gorazde, Brcko is not one of the six U.N. designated "safe areas" that NATO pledged to protect with air power if necessary.

Mr. Christopher said Friday the NATO alliance knew the Serbs could be moving their weapons from Gorazde and other areas to new front lines.

"One possibility would be for the United Nations to designate those areas, if they are attacked, as safe areas," he said.

"You can be sure the United States... will be attentive to any effort on the part of the Serbs to attack any other area."

A senior U.S. official accompanying Mr. Christopher said the U.N. diplomats were holding urgent discussions on the subject.

Bosnian Serb and Muslim armies reported fighting Friday around the central village of Kladanj, north of Sarajevo.

British troops were also in the firing line Friday in Travnik in central Bosnia, where three Serb artillery rounds landed near their observation post, U.N. officials said.

The British responded with four mortar rounds fired towards the Serb positions.

Nordic U.N. observation posts near Sapna and Tuzla, north of Sarajevo, also came under fire Friday. No U.N. casualties were reported in the incidents.



U.S. President Bill Clinton (left) talks at the White House with an unidentified Native American tribal leader during a meeting with leaders of

U.S.'s Native American tribes. According to the White House, this gathering is the first time all of the nation's tribes were invited to meet the president (AFP photo)

Indians, White House bury the hatchet

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Leaders of more than 500 Indian tribes buried the hatchet with the federal government in an unprecedented White House pow-wow with President Bill Clinton.

"Our history has not always been a proud one but our future can be," Mr. Clinton said during the 2-1/2 hour ceremony that included tribal chants sung by leaders in traditional eagle-feather costumes.

In a tent on the White House grounds, Mr. Clinton pledged a new partnership with the native American tribes that would provide them with greater autonomy.

The historic meeting was seen by the tribes as a major

step toward convincing the administration to treat each tribe as a separate government.

"For so long, from the Indian perspective, the doors of the White House have been closed to us. The symbolism is that the gates are open to us," explained Gaiashkibos, president of the National Congress of American Indians.

"We should be accorded the utmost respect when we come to Washington and meet with high-level officials," he added.

"We're in danger," said John Sunchild, president of Chippewa-Cree tribe of Minnesota.

Mr. Clinton issued a memorandum directing his adminis-

tration to follow certain principles in dealing with indigenous groups, saying that any actions taken by Washington "should be implemented in a knowledgeable, sensitive manner respectful of tribal sovereignty."

The president signed another directive allowing greater access to eagle feathers used in Indian rituals without modifying federal protection for the birds.

Mr. Clinton said he hoped the native American tribes could diversify their economic activities beyond casino gambling, which has been a controversial but major source of revenue in recent years for the tribes.

Hundreds of thousands of Rwandans flee into Tanzania

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of Rwandans fleeing the ethnic bloodbath in their homeland advanced toward the border with Tanzania Saturday in a line that stretched for more than five miles (eight kms).

More than 250,000 refugees fled into Tanzania Friday, U.N. officials said. Rwandan army troops abandoned the border ahead of advancing rebels and that refugees were walking toward the frontier.

"We estimate another 400,000 are near the border, very near to crossing. We are talking about a total of about 600,000 people," U.N. spokesman Abdul Kabia said by telephone from Kigali, the capital.

Estimates of the numbers of refugees varied widely and earlier the U.N. estimated the total could reach 300,000 to 400,000 refugees. Mr. Kabia's figures came from estimates by observers in the area.

A U.N. source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Kibungo province along the southeastern border with Tanzania had fallen to the rebels. "The border was guarded by government forces. It seems now they are either unable or unwilling to protect it," said Mr. Kabia.

Mr. Kabia said the refugees fleeing into Tanzania included Hutus frightened by the advance of the mostly Tutsi rebels of the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) and Tutsis afraid of being massacred by militias or the Hutu-run government forces.

U.N. chief Boutros Ghali asked the Security Council Friday to reconsider its decision to largely withdraw its 1,700 soldiers from Rwanda. The 270 peacekeepers remaining have reported a "deterioration in the situation," he said in a letter to the Security Council obtained by the Associated Press.

The Security Council, in a meeting early Friday, affirmed the need to find ways to help restore order, including an arms embargo on Rwanda, and to help and protect refugees. It did not mention peacekeepers but said it would consider the secretary-general's letter.

Since the latest flare-up in the long-running feud between ethnic Hutus and Tutsis began three and a half weeks ago, more than 100,000 people are estimated to have been killed and 1.3 million forced from their homes.

Besides sending hundreds of thousands rushing for the Tanzanian border, rebel gains in the east and southeast also weakened the government's ability to defend the capital.

"They (the rebels) seem to have a stronghold on the city from three sides," said Mr. Kabia.

Rebels and government troops fought brief mortar and small arms duels early Saturday in the capital where there were signs of a possible new push by the rebels.

"The families of military officers in the centre of Kigali are now being evacuated by government forces. Perhaps they feel an attack on the city is imminent. The (rebel) strategy is to gradually encircle the city," said the U.N. source in the capital who spoke on condition of anonymity.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Spain's interior minister resigns

MADRID (R) — Spain's Interior Minister Antonio Asuncion said Saturday he had presented his resignation to Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez over the case of a former Civil Guard head wanted on corruption allegations. The whereabouts of former director-general of the Civil Guard, Luis Roldan, remain unknown after a Madrid judge Friday ordered his arrest. "I assume my political responsibility and I have verbally presented my resignation to the prime minister. He will respond when he considers convenient," Mr. Asuncion told a news conference. He added that he expected Mr. Gonzalez to accept it unless Roldan was captured in the next few days. Mr. Asuncion would become the first major government casualty from two serious corruption scandals in the past couple of months. Former Bank of Spain Governor Mariano Rubio is being investigated for illicit stock market deals and tax evasion.

Trial sought for Italy's Bossi

ROME (R) — Italian magistrates have requested Northern League leader Umberto Bossi stand trial on charges of breaking the law on the financing of political parties, judicial sources said Saturday. Mr. Bossi was named among 37 people magistrates want to bring to trial in connection with the so-called Enimont affair. The list also included former Socialist Prime Minister Bettino Craxi and ex-Christian Democrat Budget Minister Paolo Cirino Pomicino. The fiery Bossi's Northern League is set to enter government for the first time as part of the Freedom Alliance which triumphed in March 27/28 general elections. Mr. Bossi, who frequently attacked Italy's corruption-tainted political old guard, was put on a list of suspects last December over a \$125,000 payment his party received from the Ferruzzi Company.

S. Korea's Kim vows to continue reforms

SEOUL (AFP) — President Kim Young-Sam Saturday appointed a former unification minister and known liberal to his old post, pledging to push ahead with his reform policy. Mr. Kim named Lee Hong-Koo, vice president of the government Advisory Council on Democratic and Peaceful Unification, to succeed Lee Young-Duk, who became the new prime minister Friday, the spokesman said. Mr. Kim also rejected resignations submitted by all 23 of the other cabinet members and returned them to their posts. "The cabinet change was only to fill the double post of unification minister and deputy prime minister vacated by the promotion of Lee Yung-Duk," the spokesman said. There had been speculation that Mr. Kim might carry out a wider cabinet reshuffle to placate public anger over the sacking of the popular prime minister, Lee Hoi-Chang, earlier this month. Mr. Lee Hoi-Chang, who once led Kim Young-Sam's anti-graft campaign as chief auditor, was backed in what some observers said was a power struggle among the ruling camp. But Mr. Kim took pains in dismissing criticism that the sacking of the reform-minded Lee Hoi-Chang was evidence that he was lapsing into past authoritarianism. "We must keep up with our efforts to push through with reforms," Mr. Kim said at his first meeting with the new cabinet.

3 soldiers die in N. Ireland fire

BELFAST (R) — Three soldiers died and eight others were injured when fire swept through a barracks in Northern Ireland Saturday. Security sources said the blaze, in the western town of Magherafelt, was believed to have started accidentally in the soldiers' wood-built quarters, trapping several of them as ammunition exploded in the intense heat. Survivors said the accommodation block was engulfed in flames within minutes. The victims were members of the province's Royal Irish Regiment, which operates alongside the British army in its war against the Irish Republican Army (IRA). The soldiers were resting between anti-guerrilla patrols when the fire broke out. The barracks has been attacked several times by the IRA, but security chiefs do not believe there was any terrorist involvement this time. An army spokeswoman said: "It does not look as if the fire was started intentionally. A full investigation is under way to determine the cause."

Taiwan civil aviation director quits

TAIPEI (AFP) — The head of Taiwan's Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA) Saturday submitted his resignation to the government after a China Airlines (CAL) plane crashed, killing 263 people. Sun Chao-Liang, director-general of the CAA, submitted his resignation to Transportation and Communications Minister Liu Chao-Shuan following a motion approved late Friday by members of parliament for Mr. Sun to step down. The CAL Airbus 300-600R crashed and exploded while attempting to land at Nagoya Airport in central Japan Tuesday, killing 263 of 271 people aboard the plane.

Peter Seller's widow dead at 39

LOS ANGELES (R) — Actress Lynne Frederick, the 39-year-old widow of the late British comedian Peter Sellers, was found dead in her bed this week, officials said. Although further tests were planned after an autopsy failed to determine the cause of death, coroner's investigators said there was no evidence of foul play or suicide. "We're investigating this as a natural death," said Scott Carrier, a spokesman for the Los Angeles County Coroner's office. Ms. Frederick, Sellers' fourth wife, died in her bed Wednesday in her West Los Angeles home. Her mother found her body that night still under the covers. Mr. Carrier said. Sellers was previously married to actresses Anne Howe from 1951 to 1964, Britt Ekland from 1964 to 1969 and Miranda Quarry from 1970 to 1974.

Russia, Latvia agree troop pullout

MOSCOW (R) — The presidents of Russia and Latvia ended two years of tense negotiations Saturday with a formal agreement to pull ex-Soviet troops out of the tiny Baltic state by Aug. 31.

Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Guntis Ulmanis signed the deal in the Kremlin, ending what Latvians see as decades of occupation by Moscow's armies. Latvia and neighbouring Lithuania and Estonia were annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940.

"I want to mention a question painful both for Latvia and for us, that of the remnants of the Stalinist totalitarian regime of the 1940s," an emotional Mr. Yeltsin told Mr. Ulmanis after the signing ceremony.

"I want to say officially again that we condemn these acts against the autonomy of the Republic of Latvia and its people."

Mr. Ulmanis expressed heartfelt gratitude for Mr. Yeltsin's remarks, adding that they would "help many people in Latvia overcome the psychological and practical disagreements between the two countries."

The last obstacle to signing — the status of 20,000 retired army officers and their families — had been removed at talks in Latvia Friday, although nationalists in Latvia's parliament have refused to accept the compromise deal so far.

According to Latvian figures there are still 10,500 troops, now under Russian control, stationed inside Latvia.

Karachi violence worsens; 6 more killed

KARACHI (AFP) — At least six people were killed here Saturday in an upsurge in violence linked to an anti-government campaign by an ethnic migrant movement, hospital sources said.

At least 21 vehicles, two shops and a bank have been torched in this port city and commercial hub of the country since Friday and the death toll has risen to eight in two days, ambulance and firebrigade sources said.

The violence has also left more than 30 people injured. The Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) represents the large Urdu-speaking community in Sindh called Mohajirs —

migrants from India after the 1947 partition of the sub-continent or their descendants. One person died Saturday in sniper fire and three died when unidentified gunmen opened fire on a bus which overturned as the driver tried to flee, witnesses said.

At least one more body was believed trapped under the bus and rescue workers said the man was apparently dead.

A running gun battle between police and supporters of the MQM left two dead Friday. A policeman was shot dead early Saturday, police said.

The MQM had announced a two-day mourning period after police fired on a crowd Friday

leaving two people dead, allegedly from the shooting.

Incidents of firing and sniping by unidentified men have been reported from the heavily-populated central and eastern parts of the city.

Attendance in schools and offices was thin and the streets were deserted with public transport off the roads in most areas. Witnesses said the disturbances had spilled over into the usually peaceful wealthy areas of the city.

Sindh Chief Minister Abdullah Shah, who belongs to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party, met with senior officials to review the situation.

Electors to punish Dutch ruling coalition

THE HAGUE (AFP) — Dutch electors appear set to punish the ruling coalition in general elections Tuesday, as opinion polls show voters flocking to smaller parties to protest mounting unemployment and a surge in asylum-seekers.

Latest figures published as the election campaign neared its end showed a 33 per cent leap in the numbers out of work in the first quarter of the year, sending shock waves through the ruling Christian Democratic Appeal (CDA)/Labour (PVD) coalition, in power since 1989.

Voters have been further angered by the coalition's de-

clared aim to cut back on the country's social security system, and their anger could lead to a repeat of the coalition's poor showing in March municipal elections.

In addition, immigration has proven to be a divisive campaign issue, as the number of asylum-seekers in the Netherlands is predicted to rise from 35,000 in 1993 to 70,000 this year.

But while both Labour and the Christian Democrats are expected to lose seats, it remains unclear who will be the principal beneficiaries of electors' ire as polling organisations report voters splitting their favours between a range of extremist and protest parties.

Such is the confusion only days before the poll that Dutch newspapers have already suggested six different coalitions that could emerge from the new 150-member parliament.

According to opinion polls the CDA of Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers will retain only 33 of the 54 seats it has in the outgoing parliament — a finding that represents something of a comeback on its rating at the outset of the campaign.

Labour is set to lose around 15 of its 49 seats after a poor start to the campaign. But if the polls are to be believed the party will still be the largest grouping in the new assembly.

U.S. seek total trade embargo against Haiti

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United States has circulated a resolution within the Security Council that would impose a total trade embargo against Haiti and punish its military rulers.

U.S. diplomats said they were sending copies of the draft to the other 14 members of the council. They hoped the resolution will be adopted next week.

The Council already has imposed an oil and arms embargo against Haiti, the poorest nation in the western hemisphere.

The new sanctions would ban all trade, except for food and medicine.

The resolution would also give key military and police officials 15 days to leave office of the country, before the total embargo would take effect.

U.S. diplomats said army chief Gen. Raoul Cedras, his Chief of Staff Philippe Biamphay and Port-Au-Prince Police Chief Michel Francois should step down.

"There is a basic consensus on the Security Council for passage of the sanctions resolutions," U.S. Ambassador Madeleine K. Albright told reporters. "We are not alone in being frustrated, irritated and furious about what has been going on in Haiti."

The tougher sanctions would target Haiti's military leaders. The measures include a travel ban on about 600 key Haitian military and police figures and their families, a possible freeze on the Haitian leadership's overseas assets, and a ban on all non-commercial flights.

The aviation ban is intended to stop illicit drug trafficking from Haiti.

Food, fuel, medicine and humanitarian supplies would be exempt from the embargo. The trade cutoff also would exempt mangoes, a Haitian export, for fear that mango trees would be cut down for firewood if they did not yield a cash crop.

In a U.S. policy shift, the draft resolution drops earlier references to required steps by ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and puts no pressure on him.

U.S. diplomats said two more centres would be established in Haiti to process claims for political asylum.

The resolution says Mr. Aristide's return and the restoration of democracy are the main goals, but it does not set a timetable.

Mr. Aristide was ousted in a military coup in September 1991.

In Washington, administration officials said the draft re-

solution would close a major loophole in the U.S. embargo that sent trade with Haiti upward instead of down. Under the Bush administration when the embargo first was imposed, the United States insisted on a special exemption for goods assembled in Haiti from U.S. materials and then sent back to the United States.

Clothing, softballs and baseballs were the major items.

Meanwhile the Haitian military Friday blocked a United Nations civilian team from investigating reports of killings in a hamlet in a northern region.

The five-member team was shouted at by dozens of townspeople, many wielding machetes, and surrounded by about 30 soldiers as it attempted to visit the hamlet of Bassin Caiman.

The hamlet has been sealed off by authorities since an alleged attack earlier this month on the military outpost in Petit Bourg.

A source close to the military, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said this week that more than 40 people were killed in a military sweep earlier this month in the remote northern region. The U.N. team has been in the area since Wednesday investigating the reports.

U.N. spokesman Eric Falt

did not give a reason why the team was turned back, but soldiers told Associated Press journalists attempting to cross into the region that they needed written permission from the regional military commander and warned that the area was a battle zone.

The soldiers said Communist rebels were operating in this remote wooded area, but human rights advocates have previously questioned military claims, saying they provided a pretext for repression.

Travellers in the area Friday reported killings and homes burned down in the hamlet, but no figures were given. Soldiers said they were merely defending themselves from rebels.

Another U.N. team was in the west coast city of Gonaives, site of the killings last week of dozens of residents of a slum known to be sympathetic to exiled President Aristide.

The military source also said 50 people were slain in a similar operation in February in southwestern Le Pretre. Up to 3,000 people have been killed in political violence since the army overthrew Mr. Aristide in September 1991. The Bassin Caiman hamlet was considered an Aristide stronghold.

Whoopi to wed union organiser

NEW YORK (R) — Comedian and actress Whoopi Goldberg said she would marry a union organiser, Lyle Trachtenberg, possibly in 1995. She told a visibly surprised Larry King on his Cable News Network talks show Larry King Live she would marry Trachtenberg, "soon, maybe in 1995," and displayed her engagement ring for the camera. Mr. Trachtenberg, 38, reportedly met Ms. Goldberg, 44, when he visited the set of her recent hit comedy sister Act 2 to determine the film crew's union status. "I don't know if he made a splash, but he definitely had my attention," Ms. Goldberg said as she introduced her fiancé to King. Mr. Trachtenberg, who sported two sapphire earrings on his left lobe, is an international representative for the International Alliance of Theatrical State Employees and Moving Picture Machine Operators of the U.S. and Canada, the union that represents technical and craft workers in the film industry. The couple said they had been dating for about seven months before their engagement. Ms. Goldberg said of Mr. Trachtenberg, "he's a normal guy. He's got a regular 9-5 job five days a week. I've never gone out with somebody like that before. ...He's stable, secure."

Dick Tracy, wife to reconcile in comic strip

CHICAGO (AP) — Gooch news for comic strip character Dick Tracy fans: He's not getting divorced after all. Tracy, wife of 45 years, Tes threatened to leave him February because she was tired of being a police wife. But Monday, she'll break do and accept the veteran crimestopper's apologies: an offer of a second honeymoon to the Cayman Islands. Tribune Media Services, which syndicates the comic strip, Tracy will promise to lay police business while on honeymoon. But the comic could not guarantee he would keep that promise. The Dick Tracy comic strip was created in 1931 by Chester Gould. It is now drawn by Dick Locher and written by Michael Kilian.

Giant emerald brings £231,000 at auction

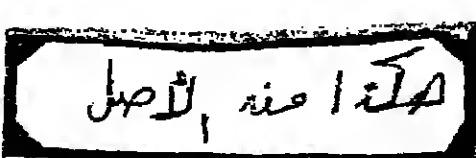
LONDON (R) — One of the world's largest emeralds and the biggest ever to come to the saleroom fetched £231,000 (\$350,000) in London, auction house Bonhams said. The huge gem, measuring more than two inches (five cm) across, dates from the 17th-century Indian mughal court and was bought by an anonymous telephone bidder from Hong Kong. The precious stone, which weighs 430 carats and was owned for years by the literary Sackville-West family, was sold from the estate of the late Sir Robin McAulpine, former head of a major British construction group. The emerald, carved with parakeets sitting back to back amidst scrolling flowering plants, was set as a brooch with diamonds and pearls by Cartier in 1916, and had been expected to sell for as much as £250,000 (\$280,000).

Jackson wins role model award

NEW YORK (AFP) — Pop superstar Michael Jackson made a rare public appearance here to accept an award after being voted best role model by 100,000 children. Jackson, under investigation for molesting a 13-year-old boy, was the children's choice of the eight to 16-year-old from New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. "I am deeply honoured. I love you all," Jackson said blowing kisses to the hundreds of children who shouted back "Michael, Michael." The award was sponsored by Body Sculpt, a non-profit group that promotes physical fitness as a way of avoiding drugs.

Hong Kong house sold for \$2,000 per square foot

HONG KONG (R) — Who would be considered a fairly modest two-storey house, any other country fetches staggering \$2,000 per square foot in Hong Kong, a record even by the astonishing levels of property prices in the British colony. The house of Victoria Peak, Hong Kong's most up-market residential district, was sold for HK dollars 6.61 million (\$32.7 million), said property agent Raymond Ho Friday. The record, however, is not expected to end for long, said Mr. Ho, a sector of First Pacific Davies. The top end of Hong Kong's booming property market is showing no signs of cooling down, he said.



Agassi upset, Chang advances in Atlanta

ATLANTA (R) — Andre Agassi, the third seed in the \$300,000 ATT challenge, was handed a stunning upset by fifth-seeded Maliwa Washington Friday.

Washington, ranked 31, defeated 20th-ranked Agassi 6-4, 7-5 after Agassi squandered a 5-2 lead in the second set. It was the first time Washington had beaten Agassi in four attempts and an unwelcome birthday present for Agassi who turned 24 on Friday.

Washington will face top seed and fellow-American, Michael Chang, in Saturday's semifinals.

Chang easily dismissed Swedish qualifier, Christian Bergstrom, 6-1, 6-3 in the quarterfinals. Chang has a 4-1 winning record over Washington but the pair have never met on clay.

Second seeded American Todd Martin ended Mats Wilander's hopes of a first semifinal appearance since winning a tournament in Itapirica, Brazil, in 1990. Martin beat the 203rd ranked Swede 6-3, 7-6 (7-3) in the quarterfinals.

Martin will face the tournament's biggest surprise, semi-finalist, qualifier, Wade McGuire who is playing in his first tour event this week.

McGuire, ranked 273, who has played mainly on the satel-

lite circuit, got past Sweden's 106th-ranked Lars Jonsson, 6-3, 6-2.

Agassi's first serve deserted him at crucial moments. Washington made effective use of his own powerful serve and forehand to break Agassi for 5-4 in the first set. A lazy backhand into the net by Agassi sealed the set for Washington, 6-4.

Agassi's serve was still erratic in the second set but he managed to break Washington for 2-0, then take a 5-2 lead. But Washington never took the pressure off and relied on his own solid serve to win the next five games.

Washington set up match point with a forehand winner powered down the line on the stretch, then won the match 7-5 when Agassi netted a forehand.

"I just had to hustle out there and make him try to earn the points," Washington said. "It's a big win. It felt good. I went out there knowing it was going to be tough. I had my game plan and I just needed to execute."

"My first serve really let me down at crucial times," Agassi said. "I've just been surviving. It feels like, all week, I'm disappointed with my whole game. Even if I'd won, I'd have come off court saying the same thing."

Pippen power Bulls to victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers

CHICAGO (R) — Scottie Pippen scored 11 of his 31 points in the decisive third quarter as the Bulls beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 104-96 Friday to begin their playoff defence of the National Basketball Association (NBA) championship.

Pippen added 12 rebounds, five assists and four steals for Chicago who took a 1-0 lead in the first-round, best-of-five series as they shoot for a fourth consecutive NBA title — but their first one without retired superstar Michael Jordan.

Scott Williams added 21 points for the winners. Gerald Wilkins scored 23 points and Tyrone Hill added 16 points and eight rebounds for the injury-ravaged Cavaliers.

Cleveland was without starting centre Brad Daugherty and starting forwards Larry Nance and John Williams. Daugherty is suffering from a herniated disk in his back. Nance has a knee injury, and Williams fractured his right thumb in practice.

The Cavs led 51-49 at the half. The Bulls took the lead at 59-57 on a dunk by Pete Myers with 7:43 left in the third quarter and never looked back.

Chicago held the Cavs' leading scorer, Price, to just nine points on 2-of-11 from the floor.

"Give B.J. (Armstrong) and the team credit for doing a good job on him (Price), but you can't expect that in every game," said Pippen. "He's an All-Star."

Toni Kukoc was a big factor off the bench for Chicago. Playing his first NBA playoff game, Kukoc scored 11 points and grabbed eight rebounds in just 16 minutes of play.

"When I come into the game with emotion, I play much better," he said.

Wilkins said the Cavs proved something to themselves. "We were right there, undermanned and all," he said. "We know we can beat them with what we've got."

In New York, Charles Smith scored eight of his 17 points in the final 4:00 to lead the Knicks past cross-river rivals the New Jersey Nets 91-80 in the opener of their Eastern Conference first-round series.



Scottie Pippen

Patrick Ewing scored 25 points and grabbed 13 rebounds to pace New York, who held New Jersey without a field goal for nearly nine minutes down the stretch.

Derrick Coleman had 27 points to lead the Nets, but was limited to one field goal in the fourth quarter.

The Nets had won four of five games against the Knicks during the regular season.

New York nursed a 63-61 lead after three quarters, but New Jersey rallied to take a 68-64 lead with 8:53 remaining. The Knicks responded with a 10-0 run over the next two minutes for a re-gain a lead they would never relinquish.

In Houston, Vernon Maxwell scored 24 points, including 10 straight during a 19-6 fourth-quarter surge, to lead the Rockets to a 114-104 win over the Portland Trail Blazers

in the opener of their first-round Western Conference series.

Hakeem Olajuwon added 26 points, 10 rebounds and six blocks to fuel the Rockets.

In Phoenix, Charles Barkley scored 36 points and grabbed 19 rebounds as the Phoenix Suns withstood a late rally to defeat the Golden State Warriors 111-104 in their opener.

Kevin Johnson added 24 points and seven assists for the Suns, runners-up to the Bulls last year. Billy Owens scored 27 points and Laterrell Spriwell netted 22 for Golden State, who have lost 19 straight games in Phoenix.

The Suns led 92-80 heading into the final quarter before Golden State went on 15-2 run to move ahead 95-94. Dan Majerle then bit a three-pointer to give the Suns the lead for good.

Everton close to relegation after 40 years in top flight

LONDON (R) — Everton, one of the traditional "big five" of English soccer, moved closer to relegation from the premier league when they lost 3-0 to Leeds Saturday.

And Tottenham, another fallen member of English soccer's aristocracy, are also deep in trouble after losing 2-1 at London rivals Wimbledon.

Everton fell into the bottom three for the first time this season after their heavy defeat at Leeds and 40 years in the top flight will end next week if they lose their last match of the season at home to Wimbledon.

Even a draw may not be enough to save them. Everton and Tottenham were the only relegation-threatened teams who played and lost, as Sheffield United and Southampton both won and Manchester City and Oldham both drew.

Sheffield United beat Newcastle 2-0 while Matthew Le Tissier inspired Southampton

to a 4-1 win over Aston Villa with a masterly display and two priceless goals.

Oldham drew 0-0 with Sheffield Wednesday, while Manchester City held Chelsea to a 2-2 draw after trailing 2-0 after only 19 minutes.

Despite losing at Sheffield United, Newcastle clinched a UEFA Cup place for next season as Arsenal, the only team who could overtake them and finish third, lost 2-0 at home to West Ham.

The focus was on the bottom of the table with the championship race on hold until Sunday and Monday when league leaders Manchester United play Ipswich and second-placed Blackburn play at Coventry.

While one era could close on Merseyside with Everton's drop into the first division next week, one era did end in the city Saturday when Liverpool played their last match in front of the world-famous Kop Ter-

race. After 88 years the huge embankment that once held 27,000 people, is being demolished and being replaced by a new all-seater stand in time for the start of next season.

But Liverpool were unable to mark an emotional afternoon with a victory, playing poorly and losing 1-0 to Norwich.

To the great dismay of the Kopites, it was Jeremy Gow of Norwich and not a Liverpool player who scored the last-ever goal in front of their terraced, striking the ball home in the 35th minute.

There was joy at another visiting team when already-relegated Swindon Town won 3-1 at Queens Park Rangers. It was their first away win of the season in their last away match and meant they completed the double over the London side, Norwegian striker Jan Ertzoff was among their scorers.

Graf loses rare set but advances in Hamburg

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — Steffi Graf lost only her second set this year Friday, struggling to a 7-5, 3-6, 6-0 victory over Bulgaria's Magdalena Maleeva to reach the semifinals of the Citizen Cup.

The victory ran Graf's winning streak to 35 matches, but the world's top-ranked player appeared in danger of losing her first match in 1994 after being upset by Maleeva in the second set.

The German charged back in the third set, capturing all but one of the first 12 points against Maleeva, and forcing Maleeva into errors.

"I moved badly for two sets. I was unconcentrated, but thank God I got myself under control for the third set," Graf said.

"I lost my concentration," Maleeva said. "Because I was angry at the way I played there at the start."

The 19-year-old Maleeva

was Monica Seles' opponent last year in a quarterfinal match at this tournament in Hamburg when an obsessed Graf fan stabbed Seles during a changeover.

Seles was ranked first on the WTA circuit then but has not played since, allowing Graf to take over the top ranking. She has been playing in Hamburg after receiving death threats and security for the tournament is tight.

Graf's semifinal opponent will be third-seeded Czech Jana Novotna, who ousted Germany's Barbara Rittner 6-2, 6-2.

Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario also advanced by edging Georgia's Leila Meskhi, 6-2, 7-6 (7-3).

Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario also advanced by edging Georgia's Leila Meskhi, 6-2, 7-6 (7-3) and will face Sabine Hack. In an all-German duel, Hack beat Anke Huber, 6-3,

6-3. Maleeva challenged Graf from the start.

Graf finally broke Maleeva to lead 6-5, but the Bulgarian fought of three set points and watched Graf net her first serve on the fourth.

It prompted Graf to yell, "I give up" before turning to the crowd and saying, "I didn't really mean that."

After finally succumbing, Maleeva jumped to a 3-0 lead in the second set.

After Graf slammed a forehand return for a winner and made a perfect drop shot to break Maleeva's serve, Graf appeared to be able to salvage the set.

But Maleeva responded with some return winners to break back, take a 4-2 lead and hold on to win a set from Graf for the first time since Natalia Zvereva on March 20 at the Lipton Championships in Key Biscayne, Fla.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ratzenberger in critical condition after crash

IMOLA, Italy (R) — Austrian driver Roland Ratzenberger was critically injured after a high-speed crash in final qualifying for the San Marino Grand Prix Saturday. Ratzenberger, in a Simtek, crashed at the Villeneuve corner at over 250 kph. His car slewed off the circuit and slammed into the trackside wall. Ratzenberger, 31, appeared to be unconscious when his car came to a halt 150 metres further up the circuit on the inside of the Tosa Hairpin. FIA spokesman Martin Whitaker said in a statement Ratzenberger had been taken to the Maggiore Hospital in Bologna in a "critical condition."

Rookies get Indy test

INDIANAPOLIS (AFP) — Canadians Jacques Villeneuve and Ross Bentley plus Brazilians Marco Greco and Mauricio Gugelmin are among 13 drivers who began rookie testing Friday for next month's Indianapolis 500. Mexico's Adrian Fernandez, Sweden's Fredrik Ekblom, Japan's Hideshi Matsuda and six U.S. drivers are trying to pass their rookie test here before practice opens May 7 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. The rookie orientation session organised by the U.S. Auto Club allows drivers who have never raced at Indy to become familiar with the 2.5-mile oval. Speeds are limited until drivers show they can handle the course.

Italian to challenge Obree record

BORDEAUX (AFP) — Italian amateur Vanni Sanna is to make an assault on Graeme Obree's world hour record here May 13, the manager of the Bordeaux-Lac Velodrome said. It was in the same stadium that Obree reclaimed the record from Chris Boardman with a distance of 52.71km Wednesday. Sanna, who has been in training for three months, has a personal best of 50.205km, set in Mexico.

Olympic champion announces retirement

MUNICH, Germany (AP) — Double Olympic gold medalist Markus Wasmeier, Germany's biggest skiing star, announced Friday he was retiring. Wasmeier, 30, won the giant slalom and super-giant slalom titles in Lillehammer in February. He was also giant slalom world champion in 1985. Wasmeier said he plans to spend more time with his family, make movies and work for his sponsors.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMAR HIRSCH
TAMAR HIRSCH, JORDAN

DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH

♠ Void

♥ K Q J 4

♦ A K J

♣ K J 7 5 3

EAST

♠ K Q P 7 4 3 A 8 5

♥ 7 2

♦ Q S

♣ A Q S

SOUTH

♠ J 10 6 2

♥ A 8 8 5

♦ 9 5 4

♣ 6 2

The bidding:

West North East South

1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠

Pass 5 ♠ Pass 6 ♠

Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

If you find yourself in a tedious contract, take whatever risks are necessary to bring it home. However, when the cost of failure is going to be exorbitant — doubled, vulnerable undertricks can be very expensive — it might be necessary to cut your losses. Declarer had the luxury of going for broke on this hand.

North's direct cue-bid was an old-fashioned strong takeout. The auction went off the rails when North next jumped to five hearts — in view of North's initial action, a second

spade cue-bid or a raise to four hearts would have been adequate. Since the three-heart response promised nothing, South can hardly be blamed for going on to slam with the ace of trumps and a ruffing value.

West led the king of spades and declarer was not enthralled with dummy. One line did present itself and it depended on some lucky breaks as well as picking up the ten of hearts.

The first step in the plan was to ruff the opening lead with the jack of trumps. After cashing the king of trumps, South continued with a low trump from dummy. East followed low, and declarer, playing the percentages, finessed the eight. When that held and West followed, only one more hurdle remained to be cleared.

Declarer led a club from hand, West ducked and the king won. A low club was returned to West's queen and East did as well as possible by forcing the table's last trump with a spade.

It was to no avail. Declarer ruffed a club in hand to set up the suit, drew the last trump, discarding the jack of diamonds from the table and the board was high. A diamond to the king allowed declarer to claim the rest of the tricks.

AMMAN LITTLE LEAGUE

Amman Little League baseball results and standings (after games played on Friday, April 29, 1994)

COACH PITCH

	Won	Lost	Percentage	Games behind
GEMT	2	0	1.000	—
CCC	2	1	.666	½
MARRIOTT	2	1	.666	½
Modern Schools	0	2	.000	2

KID PITCH

	Won	Lost	Percentage	Games behind
Aqaba Shipping	2	0	1.000	—
Yellow Pages	2	1	.666	½
Peugeot	1	2	.333	1½
Epson	0	1	.000	1½
General Plastic	0	1	.000	1½

★ Friday's 6-6 tie game between Epson and General Plastic on April 22 will be continued at a later date.

Results of games played Friday, April 29

T-BALL

Budget 30 Renault 29

Arames 23 Opel 22

COACH PITCH

GEMT 27 Modern Schools 19

Apple 16 CCC 13

KID PITCH

Aqaba Shipping 10 Yellow Pages 1

Peugeot 8 Epson 5

SENIORS

Alphacan 22 Skoda 4

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2. Deluxe furnished apartment consisting of 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, telephone, and water reservoir, located in 7th Circle. For more information, call: Jordan Property Consultants Tel. 829882 - Fax: 829883

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Must be experienced in all areas of housework. Please call 836512 after 4 p.m. for information.

Yzaga defeats Edberg in Madrid championship

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Peru's Jaime Yzaga knocked out 1 seed Stefan Edberg out of the \$800,000 Madrid Open with a two-set win Friday in the quarterfinals, ending the Swede's string of 15 set victories in two years in Madrid without a loss.

The 26-year-old Yzaga, ranked no. 28 in the world but unseeded at Madrid, won 6-4, 6-2 over the world's no. 3.

In other quarterfinals Friday, no. 3 seed Sergi Bruguera of Spain, defeated no. 5 seed Carlos Costa of Spain 3-6, 6-2, 6-4; Spaniard Alex Corretja defeated Jakob Hasek of Switzerland 6-3, 6-2; no. 4 seed Thomas Muster of Austria defeated no. 6 Ivan Lendl of the United States 2-6, 6-3, 6-0.

Bruguera faces Corretja in the semifinals and Muster plays Yzaga.

"The important thing was to keep pressure on him, especially with his return of serve," said Yzaga, whose most recent ATP win came last fall in an indoor tournament in Sydney.

"Nowadays, lots of players are capable of beating the top players," Yzaga added. "The only exception might be Sampras (world no. 1 Pete Sampras)."

Edberg, the defending tournament champion, had trouble with Yzaga's quickness, and though he's not known as a strong clay-court player, Edberg said he had been playing well on clay this year and admitted this was his worst match.

"I didn't serve well and I didn't return well," Edberg said. "I never did feel the ball. My timing was off — I was trying too much. I knew this would be a tough match, but I didn't expect to play like this."

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The Organisation of Norwegian Artists, named NBK, happily (hopefully) wishes warm contact with Arabian painters, sculptors, ceramists, textile-workers, designers, graphic specialists and others. We hope for a conference in Amman to arrange exhibitions in Norway to exchange ideas, techniques and create a MULTI-CULTURAL development.

Contact address is:
NBK, KONGENSGT. 3 OSLO 01
NORVEC,
Thank You

Stich into Munich semis

MUNICH, Germany (AP) — Michael Stich, the world's second-ranked player, reached the semifinals of the BMW Open Friday by battling past South Africa's Wayne Ferreira in a ragged 6-4, 6-7 (3-7), 7-6 (7-1) match.

Stich, hoping to become the first German to capture the tournament since Rolf Gehring in 1980, needed to rally in the third set to pull out a victory against the 22-year-old South African.

After going down a break in the third set, Stich trailed 6-5 before he earned a breakback and set up the tiebreaker.

"That was a crummy, badly played match," the German said. "I'm not moving freely, I'm too tight."

Stich routed the eighth-seeded in the tiebreaker, but he converted match point without hitting a shot. Ferreira's last hope disappeared when he was penalised a point for banging his racket on the clay court.

Graduate Careers in Financial Journalism

Reuters is the leading international news and business information organisation. Using the latest technology, it supplies the global business community and news media with a wide range of products, including real-time financial data, transaction systems, trading room systems, access to numeric and textual historical databases, news and news pictures.

We are now looking for graduates, either leaving university this summer or perhaps one to two years into their first job, to join our journalist training scheme, which will this year be geared to our economic news and analysis service.

Beginning in September, the scheme will comprise seven weeks practical training in London, followed by experience on the economic news desks and reporting units as well as specialist instruction in the financial markets. Trainees will then be assigned back to the Middle East.

This represents an excellent career opportunity for graduates (most probably in economics or maths) who can combine an interest in the international financial markets with the ability to write with flair and accuracy in English and Arabic while meeting strict deadlines. The rewards will be attractive, with a competitive salary supported by benefits including annual holiday, health cover and the chance to participate in the Reuter Save As You Earn (SAYE) share option scheme.

Please mail a C.V. and a letter explaining why you want to participate in the programme to: Jack Redden, Reuter Bureau chief, news and television, Jordan Box 667 Amman

Applications must be received by May 15 and interviews will be scheduled for the end of May. Reuters is an equal opportunities employer.

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	PHILADELPHIA	PLAZA	CONCORD	AMMOUN THEATRE	Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	AHLAN THEATRE
TODAY	TOM & JERRY The Movie Performances: 11.00, 12.30, 3.30, 6.15 "White Palace" at 8.30 - 10.30 p.m.	OUTRAGEOUS FORTUNE Shows: 12.30, 3.15, 5.00, 6.30, 8.30, 10.30	CONCORD '1' A PERFECT WORLD Shows: 12.30, 3.30, 6.15, 8.30, 10.30 CONCORD '2' MR. JONS Shows: 12.30, 3.30, 6.15, 8.30, 10.30	The political comedy play FORBIDDEN FORBIDDEN Every night at 8.30 p.m.	Coming soon Abu Awad in: The new comedy play: "A PUNCTURED BAG" Directed by Ghassan Al Mashini	The political comedy play: "WHAT A PEACE!" (Al Salam Ya Salam) At: 8.30 p.m. For reservations please call 625155

NEWS IN BRIEF

14 jailed for conspiracy in Sudan

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Fourteen opposition figures, including the army's former supreme commander, have been sentenced to between two and 10 years in jail for conspiring to topple the government, judicial officials said Saturday. A special civil tribunal announced it had sentenced nine out of 17 people tried in absentia to 10 years for conspiring against the government of Omar Al Bashir's. They included former army Commander-in-Chief General Fathi Ahmad Ali, former security chief General Al Hadi Bushra, and former deputy Chief of Staff General Abdul Rahman Saeed. They were charged with sending teams to Lebanon for explosives training in order to carry out sabotage and assassinations inside Sudan as a precursor to a coup. The remaining eight tried in their absence were acquitted. Five of the nine defendants present in court, who were arrested in May, were jailed for between two and seven years. The remaining four were acquitted.

Bomb defendants' sentencing delayed

NEW YORK (R) — The sentencing of the four men convicted of bombing the World Trade Centre has been delayed until May 25, federal prosecutors said. The sentencing had been set for Wednesday and a clerk for U.S. District Judge Kevin Duffy said the delay was due to "administrative reasons." However, the postponement was announced just before Tuesday's arguments before the second circuit court of appeals as to whether Judge Duffy ruled properly in denying the defendants' wish to be represented by lawyer William Kunstler. The outcome of the session could have delayed the sentencing.

Swedish airplane bomb threat was hoax

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Passengers on a British Airways flight were briefly delayed Saturday while police determined that a telephone bomb threat was a hoax. "We received the bomb threat two minutes before the plane landed," police spokeswoman Inger Jonsson-Duf said of the plane at Stockholm's Arlanda airport. "But the threat was apparently a hoax." The threat against the London-to-Stockholm airliner was telephoned to British Airways' reservation office in Newcastle, England, and passed on by air traffic controllers to Stockholm, an airline spokeswoman said. "The captain of the plane was unaware of the threat until contacted by the airport officials," said Birgitta Rambling of the Arlanda police. Passengers were prevented from disembarking for about 30 minutes because of the threat. They left the plane by 3 p.m. and were questioned in the terminal, and bomb-sniffing dogs were searching the luggage, police said. The aircraft had 66 passengers and a crew of seven aboard.

Sudan central bank damaged by fire

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's central bank was gutted in a fire that broke out before dawn Saturday and raged for five hours, fire officials said. There were no reports of injuries. Bank authorities said in a statement that furniture and equipment had been lost in the blaze but that cash and important documents in the bank's safe were spared. It was the fourth major fire in the Sudanese capital in the past two months. The state-owned Bank of Khartoum was seriously damaged in a fire last month, and privately owned packaging and perfume companies also were destroyed. An official with the fire brigade said the central bank lacked proper safety controls and had insufficient fire-fighting equipment. The government appointed a committee to investigate the cause of the blaze and determine losses.

'China supplying chemicals to Iraq'

DAMASCUS (AFP) — An Iraqi Kurdish opposition group on Saturday alleged China was supplying Iraq with chemical weapons through a third country. "Kurdish police intercepted on the night of April 17 two trucks carrying 19 tonnes of sodium phosphate used to make mustard gas and chemical weapons," a statement by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said. The chemicals were smuggled into Iraq through a "neighbouring" third country, according to the statement received here by AFP which did not identify the country. The truck drivers "admitted during questioning" they were trying to transport the chemicals through Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq to regions controlled by the Iraqi central government.

S. Korea plans direct air routes to Israel

SEOUL (AP) — South Korea is working to establish direct air routes to Israel and five other nations by June, the foreign ministry said Friday. South Korea expects to conclude agreements with Morocco, Argentina, Uzbekistan, Bulgaria, and South Africa, along with Israel, ministry officials said. The South Korean government is near agreement on establishing a Seoul-Tel Aviv route, they said.

Police kill 7 suspects in southern Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Police killed seven suspected extremists in a dawn ambush Saturday in southern Egypt, security officials said. It was the heaviest blow against the militants since Feb. 1, when police killed seven suspected extremists from southern Egypt in a Cairo raid. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said police encircled the militant's hideout early Saturday in the town of Tahta in Sohag province, 420 kilometres south of Cairo. The men were killed as they tried to shoot their way out, the officials said.

Military court jails Egyptian reporter

CAIRO (AP) — A military court on Saturday convicted a reporter from an opposition newspaper for revealing military secrets about U.S.-Egyptian manoeuvres and sentenced him to a year in jail. Abdul Sattar Abu Hussein, 32, who works for Al Shaab newspaper, also was ordered to pay a fine of 500 Egyptian pounds (\$150). It was the first time in recent Egyptian history that a military court sentenced a reporter for a newspaper story. Military prosecutors declined comment, saying they could not speak about court rulings. The case involved an article Mr. Abu Hussein wrote on April 1 saying that joint U.S.-Egyptian manoeuvres, held every other year and code named Bright Star, would be expanded in 1995 to include Britain and Germany. The military prosecutor's office charged him with revealing military secrets. He was detained April 3 for three days, but released on bail during the three-week trial.

Syria holds family members of late dissident

NICOSIA (AP) — Syrian authorities are holding 11 relatives and friends of former strongman Salah Jadid, ousted by President Hafez Al Assad in 1970 then imprisoned until he died in captivity last fall, former prisoners and family members say. They were arrested immediately after Jadid's death aged 63 after 23 years in Damascus' Al Mezza prison, because family members opened his coffin, apparently seeking to arrange an independent autopsy to determine the cause of death. Hakam Fayez, a former dissident who spent 25 years in Syrian prisons until his release last year, told the Associated Press that the family had been warned by Syrian security authorities not to press for an independent examination. Nine of the men are Salah Jadid's nephews and the other two are family friends, he said. Mahmoud Jadid, a family member who fled Syria 22 years ago and now lives in Algeria, told the AP the Damascus authorities arrested the men, including his sons Nidal and Salah, Aug. 23, 1993, and have held them without charge since then.

Japanese foreign minister due here this week

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Japanese Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa is scheduled to visit Jordan this week as part of a Middle East tour, his first after assuming office last week, diplomats said Saturday.

The visit is seen as a reflection of the importance Japan attaches to the Middle East peace process, given the fact that it comes so soon after Mr. Kakizawa, a diplomat-turned-politician, was sworn in last week as a member of the government of Tsutomu Hata.

His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and other Jordanian officials are

expected to hold talks with Mr. Kakizawa.

A diplomatic source said the minister's talks in Amman would deal with "bilateral relations, mutual cooperation in various fields and the current situation in the Middle East."

"It is expected that the minister would make a significant and substantial announcement on the bilateral level while in Jordan," said the source, who declined to be identified. The source also declined to elaborate.

Mr. Kakizawa is scheduled to be in May 2-8 Middle East visit in Egypt and then proceed to Israel and the occupied territories before arriving in Jordan for a two-day visit on May 5. He will leave the Middle East on

May 8 after talks in Damascus.

While in the occupied territories he will meet with Palestinian leaders there.

The main theme of the visit is expected to be an assessment of the 29-month-old Arab-Israeli peace negotiations and the Japanese role in the multilateral phase of the peace process.

Tokyo chairs the multi-lateral working group on the environment and is vice-chairman of the working groups on water and regional economic cooperation. In this capacity, Japan is expected to contribute to developing means and mechanisms to protect the environment and also to address the chronic water shortage in the Middle East.

Japanese officials have said that their country wants to shed its sole image as a donor and is seeking a higher-profile political role in the international scene in the wake of the unfolding of the "new world order" in the post-Soviet Union era.

Jordanian-Japanese relations have been traditionally strong and Japanese leaders have affirmed that they appreciated the Kingdom's efforts towards self-reliance through economic readjustment. The Tokyo government has extended significant help to the Kingdom's economic readjustment. During the Gulf crisis, Japan extended assistance worth \$750 million to Jordan.

Mr. Kakizawa, 60, is an economic graduate who

served the Ministry of Finance, the Department of Taxation, and the Japanese embassy in Belgium before being elected to parliament in June 1980.

A member of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Mr. Kakizawa served as vice-minister in the Nakasone government until 1986 and was elected chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of parliament in March 1990. He was also director of the national defence division of the party in 1991.

Before taking office last week as foreign minister Mr. Kakizawa served as Parliamentary vice-minister for foreign affairs (November 1991-93).

Mr. Kakizawa is married with three children.

Irbid man kills sister in 'crime of honour'

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A 23-year-old woman was stabbed to death in Irbid on Friday by her brother for alleged adultery, a Civil Defence Department (CDD) report said.

The woman, identified as Aysheh S., received several stabs in the chest and neck inflicted by her brother who surrendered to police immediately after the incident, a CDD official said.

The official told the Jordan Times that the woman had been divorced three months ago and the brother accused her of adultery.

In his testimony to police and CDD officials, the brother, who was not identified, said his family asked him to kill his sister to "cleanse the family honour," after they were informed by relatives that the woman was having an affair with someone. He told police he took a knife, went to his house where his sister lived and stabbed her.

The woman was taken to Princess Basma Hospital where she was pronounced dead on arrival. Police declined comment on the incident.

This is the ninth "crime of honour" reported in Jordan this year.

Also in Irbid, on Friday, a 23-year-old man, who friends said was "boasting" with a gun, shot and killed himself accidentally.

A witness, described as a friend of the victim, told police that after attending a wedding in Irbid, they went to look for a taxi to take them home.

While waiting for a taxi, the witness told police, Issa S. drew a gun he was carrying and pointed it to his head and pushed the trigger thinking the safety pin was on. According to the witness, a bullet was fired and struck the man in the head, killing him instantly.

A CDD official called on the public to take extra precautions when handling guns and rifles.

Britain helping anti-Iran 'terrorists'—Tehran paper

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran accused Britain Saturday of sheltering "anti-Iranian terrorists," worsening long-acrimonious relations with London which claims Tehran is aiding the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

The British claim bolstered a U.S. campaign against Iran for allegedly sponsoring "terrorism" and is likely to sharpen growing international efforts to force Tehran to rein in its extremists.

The Tehran Times daily, which usually reflects Iranian foreign ministry policy, declared in an editorial: "Western powers, Britain among them, cannot plead ignorance when it comes to the terrorist nature of anti-Iranian groups they harbour in the West."

Excerpts from the editorial in the English-language newspaper were reported by the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).

The British allegations were made Thursday, when U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was in London en route for the Middle East.

Mr. Christopher weighed in the next day in Cairo, where he declared his "deep anger at the continued terrorism projected by Iran."

Iran's Foreign Ministry has called the British accusation "totally groundless."

The Tehran Times said it was a "smokescreen to hide

the fact that Western-based anti-Iranian terrorists are providing material and personnel to Iraqi-based terrorists to attack targets inside the Islamic republic."

It did not name any particular dissident group, but the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, the main Iranian opposition movement, is based in Baghdad and maintains a sizeable military force in Iraq which has frequently carried out attacks in Iran.

In London, a British Foreign Office spokesman denied London has "no contact of any kind with the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq group."

But he noted that "opposition groups from any country are free to operate in the United Kingdom within the law... if the Iranians have any evidence of illegal activity they should let us have sight of it."

The Tehran Times maintained that the Iranian government has come under "increasing domestic public opinion pressure" for not allowing militant German, French and Irish groups to have offices in Tehran while anti-Iranian groups "enjoy almost full diplomatic rights" in those countries.

Another newspaper, the Jomhuri Eslami daily, called on Tehran to reduce diplomatic and economic relations with London "to the lowest possible level."

Jordan lifts restrictions

(Continued from page 1)

homeland to seek better living conditions here.

It mainly allowed in businessmen, sick people who sought treatment here or abroad and students who possessed Jordanian passports as

well as tourists and those who come for family reunions.

The Kingdom also changed passport procedures. It gave Palestinians who reside in the West Bank temporary two-year passports and revoked their citizenship rights in Jordan.

Jordan to send observer

(Continued from page 1)

\$2 million and \$3 million, but that no firm agreement has been reached with the London-based agency.

No official confirmation was available whether the government had accepted to pay the costs. Shipping agents and importers, exasperated with the costly delays and diversions of ships carrying cargo for Jordan, appear resigned into accepting the cost.

"If it is inevitable, we might as well pay it," said an importer. "A few cents on every tonne of imported cargo is much better than the \$15 or \$20 per tonne or the \$500 or \$1,000 per container that we

have to pay now."

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said last week that Lloyds Register was free to "observe" all incoming and outgoing cargo at the port of Aqaba and report to the U.N. Sanctions Committee but the international agency will not "inspect" the cargo.

"There is a distinct difference between 'inspection' and 'observation'," Dr. Majali said. "There will not be any 'inspection' at Aqaba."

It was not immediately agreed whether the U.S. was and whether the "fine tuning" that Mr. Christopher talked about was related to this point.



VIOLENCE IN KARACHI: Unidentified masked gunmen take position at a street corner on ethnic Mohajir movement (see story on page 8) Saturday in an upsurge of violence linked to the

Lebanon hangs Syrian murder convicts

BAABDA (Agencies) — Two Syrians convicted of killing two jewellers store owners were hanged early Saturday.

Abdul Karim Jeji, 24, and Hassan Zastar, 26, went to a twin scaffold at the courtyard of the justice palace in this hilltop town east of Beirut before dawn.

The pair, wrapped in flowing white gowns with their hands cuffed behind their backs as they dangled from the gallows, were pronounced dead by a coroner two minutes later.

A crowd of about 500 spectators watched the execution from 30 metres away.

The scene was only 150 metres from the jewellery shop where the two Syrians murdered its owners, brothers Ghassan Antonious, 42, and Jalil Antonious, 47, on Nov.

23, 1992. The victim's elder brother, Salim Antonious, wept as he heard soldiers say the hangings were a fact.

"My brothers are dead long time," he said, "but only as of today I can mourn them. Justice has done a good job but nothing will bring back my brothers."

A criminal court found Jeji and Zastar guilty of first-degree murder last month and sentenced both to hang. President Elias Hrawi and Prime Minister Rafik Hariri ratified the sentence Thursday.

A third convict, Lebanese Nimch Hamadeh, was sentenced to death in absentia in the same crime. He managed to flee Lebanon two days after the murder and has since been living in Belgium, which has

refused to extradite him.

Lebanon reactivated the death penalty last month in a bid to restore law and order after the 1975-1990 civil war, during which rival militias set up their own courts and put dozens of alleged criminals to death.

"When you're rebuilding a nation struck by a killer quake like the Lebanese civil war, stability takes priority over all other considerations," Mr. Hariri has said.

A 22-year-old Lebanese man convicted of the rape and murder of an eight-year-old girl was hanged on April 23 in the southern part of Sidon.

The death sentences were believed to be the first by a Lebanese court against members of Syria's 35,000-strong forces in Lebanon.

Gammoh positive on Paris deal

(Continued from page 1)

an advantage, trade between the East and West Bank, Israel and the PLO had agreed to free movement of goods at what appears to be the same prices as those offered in Israel while placing Jordan in a situation where its exports to the territories will be taxed.

"Jordan will be dealt with as if it is exporting to Israel," another economist said.

A senior official defending the agreement said that the critics were looking at the agreement only from one angle and forgetting that this agreement is between Israel and the PLO and that that is "only one from" of the over all picture.

"It is not a zero sum theory," said the official, who asked for anonymity. "Any improvement on the living and work conditions of Palestinians is good for us," the official said.

He said that the opening up of trade between Jordan and the Palestinian entity, at any level, is an improvement on the current situation where "there is almost no trade."

He said that the agreement provides for a favoured trade status for Jordan and Egypt ahead of other Islamic and Arab countries.

"What is happening is that a new market is opening up across the border," the official said. "Instead of being fearful and criticising the situation from afar we should be ready to take advantage of the situation."

"There can be no progress or success when we are crippled by fear," the senior official said.

Arafat confident of self-rule signing

(Continued from page 1)

day. He said that would include preparing a list of PLO officials and Palestinians from Gaza and the West Bank who will participate in the self-rule authority.

PLO sources close to Mr. Arafat's office said Mr. Rabin had insisted Israel should endorse all names of PLO personnel to be involved in the new administration before letting them move into Gaza or Jericho.

But Mr. Ghosheh said the PLO would resist any Israeli attempts to veto officials in the new administration.

"This is purely a PLO matter and we will not let Israel choose our officials in the two areas," he said.

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their activities in the civil administration and the PLO had failed to fill the vacuum.

Palestinians said the only visible signs of change have been Israel's evacuation of some military sites and the civil administration buildings in Gaza, and the establishment of headquarters for Palestinian police in the strip.

PLO officials said the interim Palestinian authority in self-rule areas would rely heavily on existing administrative structures and the expertise of Arabs who worked for Israeli authorities.

"It seems unlikely we can move in without relying on the existing structure because we tried to design new structures and plan the transition, but we were frustrated," Dr. Qassis said.

PLO activist Hanan Ashrawi, a former spokeswoman for Palestinian negotiators, said it was natural to utilise the existing administrative framework but "Palestinians should not adopt Israeli plans and implement them wholesale."

COLUMN

Bardot appeals to end bull festival

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) — French animal rights activist Brigitte Bardot has issued an appeal to end the annual Festival of Bulls in which the animals are let loose and hunted down by residents in some Brazilian villages. "The annual celebration of the horrible Festival of Bulls this year has again shocked and disgusted international public opinion," the former actress said in an April 26 letter to President Itamar Franco and the governor of the state of Santa Catarina. The letter from the Brigitte Bardot Foundation said the Easter week custom of starving bulls and letting them free to be stoned and tortured by villagers being slaughtered by "unbearable cruelty" inflicted by "degenerate Brazilians" in the name of an ancestral custom.

Man jailed for 28 years in videotaped rape case

LONDON (R) — A 43-year-old man who videotaped himself raping young girls was sentenced to 28 years in jail in what the judge said was the longest term he had ever given. Adrian Mole, from Dorset in southern England, was found guilty of 10 charges of rape and one of attempted buggery. The court had been told Mr. Mole forced two girls to have sex and then threatened to disgrace them if they reported him. The two victims, now in their 20s, said the attacks started when they were under 16; the age of consent, with one girl only 11. Jailing Mr. Mole, Judge Martin Tucker said: "This was not just rape, it was torture you were getting your satisfaction from. This is the longest sentence I have imposed or have heard of being imposed in a case of this kind," the judge said.

Sex-change couple appeal to the queen

LONDON (R) — A couple who fell in love after both having sex change operations have appealed to Queen Elizabeth to support their campaign to marry under their new identities. A British newspaper said Saturday. Although they are legally allowed to marry, Janeen Newham and David Willis would have to assume their old genders for the wedding ceremony as British statute does not recognise sex-change surgery. Newham, 47, would be addressed as the groom, not the bride, because she was born a man. Willis would be asked whether he wanted to take his girlfriend as his lawfully wedded husband. The couple, who met five years ago just before Newham's operation to become a woman, told the Daily Mirror they had appealed in desperation to the queen to take up their case. "We want to be married in a dignified manner, as is considered for non transsexuals," said the letter to the queen, written by Janeen, who as John Newham worked as a trawler captain. "We seek only that we address each other in sincerity. I to take David as my husband and he to take me as his wife." The newspaper did not say whether Buckingham Palace had responded to the letter. "We've been through all the nastiness, the nuisance calls, the vandalism, the stares," said Willis, who has an eight-year-old daughter from his life as a woman. "What we want is to be happy together and we are prepared to come out into the open."

Woman jailed for dumping screaming baby

LONDON (R) — A London judge jailed a "cold, calculating and dangerous" woman for two years after she tied her screaming baby inside a plastic container. The four-month-old girl survived only because a neighbour heard sounds coming from the communal bin, the court was told. The named, said she just wanted some peace and quiet. A sane and intelligent. "Having given evidence I who heartedly agree and I would add cold, calculating, determined, very manipulative and dangerous," Judge Robert Prendergast told the 23-year-old woman.